

Assad messages to Fahd, Sabah

BAHRAIN (R) — Syria's Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Shara'a visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Tuesday to deliver messages to their leaders from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. The Kuwait News Agency said Mr. Shara'a arrived in Kuwait Tuesday and went straight to the emiri palace to see the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. He flew in from Riyadh, where the Saudi Press Agency said he had talks with King Fahd and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal. It gave no details of the talks. Mr. Shara'a's visit came amid intense diplomatic activity aimed at ending the 4½ year-old Iran-Iraq war. Syria backs Tehran in the conflict while the Gulf Arab states support Iraq. The conflict has flared anew in the past month with heavy fighting in the marshes of southeast Iraq, air and missile strikes on cities and towns both sides of the border in which hundreds of civilians have died and attacks on oil tankers and other merchant ships in the Gulf.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
 جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

U.N. chief meets Cypriot envoy

MUSCAT (R) — Cypriot Foreign Minister George Iacovou and United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar met in Muscat Tuesday as part of attempts to arrange a new meeting between Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders. Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who arrived here Tuesday on a two-day official visit, told reporters the meeting was at the request of Mr. Iacovou and was unconnected with his current Gulf tour, which has centered on efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war. Cypriot government spokesman Andreas Christofides said in Nicosia the secretary-general was trying to reconvene direct talks between President Spyros Kyprianou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş as soon as possible. The first meeting six years ago broke up in disarray in January with each side blaming the other for the failure.

Volume 10 Number 2836

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY APRIL 3, 1985, RAJAB 13, 1405

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Luce praises Jordan-PLO accord

KUWAIT (R) — A British minister Tuesday praised a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on Middle East peace and said Britain looked forward to fresh efforts by the United States to help bring peace to the region. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Richard Luce said the February 11 accord between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation on a joint approach to peace was a very important basis for progress, and pledged Britain would do all it could to encourage the peace process. Speaking at a press conference at the end of a three-day visit to Kuwait, he also voiced deep concern over violence in southern Lebanon and called for an early and orderly departure of Israeli forces.

Rumours sparked on Tikhonov's health

MOSCOW (R) — Western diplomats Tuesday reacted cautiously to rumours circulating in Moscow that Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov was too ill to carry out his official duties and might soon be replaced. Mr. Tikhonov, 79, was last seen in public at the funeral of President Konstantin Chernenko on March 13, but diplomats who attended a reception afterwards said he was clearly showing his age and "didn't look too good." Since then he has missed at least two major functions.

Egyptian minister meets Israeli envoy

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul-Meguid and Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sasson met here Tuesday to discuss matters of mutual interest. Mr. Sasson said afterwards that he requested the meeting before going to Israel on Wednesday for consultations with his government. Egypt and Israel have maintained diplomatic relations since 1980 under their 1979 treaty. But a number of outstanding issues have led to a cooling of ties. Egypt seeks Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, progress on the problem of the occupied West Bank and a solution to the Taba border dispute.

3 injured in blast at Syrian airlines office in Rome

ROME (AP) — Three persons injured in a bomb explosion at the Rome office of the Syrian Arab Airlines Monday night were reported in satisfactory condition at a Rome hospital Tuesday. The blast ripped out the front entrance to the airlines office on Via Barberini near Via Veneto in downtown Rome and destroyed an adjoining coffee bar, four cars, a pickup truck and a motorcycle parked nearby, police said. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Pakistan premier says detainees will be freed

KARACHI (R) — New Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Jinnah said Tuesday all political prisoners in Pakistan would be freed soon. But he told reporters he could not say now when martial law, which has banned political activity and political parties since 1979, would be lifted.

King voices concern over Palestinians in Sidon, offers help

Hussein contacts Arafat as week-long fighting continues in South Lebanon

Beirut sends reinforcements to army

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan Tuesday expressed grave concern over the fate of Palestinian refugees living in camps in South Lebanon which have been the targets of recent attacks by Falangist and Israeli-supported militiamen and offered to do whatever it could to alleviate the sufferings of the refugees.

The expression of concern and offer of help came in a telephone call His Majesty King Hussein made to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat. The King inquired about the situation in the 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mich refugee camps near the South Lebanese port city of Sidon which have been exposed to the recent assaults by gunmen of the Falangist "Lebanese Forces" and the Israeli-backed "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) of Antoine Lahd.

Mr. Arafat briefed the King on the situation in the embattled area and expressed appreciation for Jordan's concern in the matter and offer of help.

Jordan has also requested an urgent meeting of the permanent representatives of the member states of the Arab League to discuss the situation in South Lebanon. The request was made through Jordan's permanent delegate to the Arab League headquarters in Tunis, a government statement said.

A week of battles in Sidon's eastern suburbs and shelling of nearby Palestinian camps has killed at least 30 people, wounded about 120 and made tens of thousands homeless.

A spokesman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees told Reuters Tuesday the camps of 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mich were half-empty and more than 200 families had fled to Beirut and Tripoli in the north.

UNRWA was distributing food to hundreds of families squatting in its schools and offices in Sidon, he said.

Meanwhile, fighting continued in South Lebanon Tuesday when the "Lebanese Forces" and SLA militiamen shelled Lebanese government soldiers near Sidon as the army began sending more men and equipment to contain the fighting.

Army troops on Mar Elias Hill, just east of Sidon, came under intermittent artillery fire from gunners of the mostly Christian Falangist "Lebanese Forces" and the Israeli-armed "South Lebanon Army" (SLA), they said.

As the fighting continued, civic, religious and militia leaders condemned the week-long clashes, which has killed at least 30 people, wounded about 120 and made tens of thousands homeless, and threatened an indefinite strike unless the army contained the violence.

Military sources in Beirut said 30 newly-delivered U.S.-made armoured troop carriers had left Beirut port for a staging post just south of the capital, ready to move to Sidon.

The army planned to send an infantry battalion and another with anti-tank missiles — some 500 to 600 men — to Sidon in the next 48 hours, they said. They would reinforce the city's 1,400-man garrison, which is supported by troops who took over the coast road in January.

Community representatives, meeting at the seat of Sidon's Maronite Christian Archbishop Ibrahim, Helou, blamed the violence on the "Lebanese Forces" and the SLA.

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Kidnappers free French diplomat in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Kidnappers have freed unarmed French diplomat Gilles Peyrolles almost two weeks after he disappeared in the north Lebanese city of Tripoli, the French embassy said Tuesday.

"He has been freed and is in good health," an embassy spokesman said. He would not say where the kidnappers had freed Mr. Peyrolles, one of six French citizens seized in a recent wave of abductions, and the seventh Westerner to have been released.

The independent daily Al Liwa said security men of the Shi'ite Muslim Amal Movement had discovered he was held near the town of Baalbek, in the eastern Bekaa Valley, and brought him to Beirut, where he was freed.

The body of a man wearing the clothes of another kidnaper victim, Dutch priest Nicholas Kluiters, was found in the Bekaa Monday, and police were due to identify it Tuesday.

Mr. Peyrolles' abduction was claimed by the "Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Front," who said they could not guarantee his safety unless France freed "our comrade Abdul Qader Saadi," a Lebanese held on passport charges.

Senior French diplomats travelled to Tripoli for consultations to try to gain Mr. Peyrolles' release, diplomatic sources said.

A cultural attaché in his 30s, Mr. Peyrolles disappeared a day after armed men kidnapped two other French diplomats and an embassy secretary in mainly Muslim west Beirut. The two diplomats are still missing.

Embassy secretary Danielle Perez told reporters that before her release on Sunday her kidnappers had allowed her briefly to see one of the diplomats, her father Marcel Carton, and said they would move him to a new location.

The kidnappers told Ms. Perez they were the "Khaybar Brigades," a group which kidnapped, and then freed, Britons Brian Levick and Geoffrey Nash last month, apparently after mistaking them for Americans.

French Ambassador Fernand Wibaux said Ms. Perez' kidnappers believed she and Carton, an attaché, had more important jobs than they actually held.

Two French teachers were kidnapped briefly and then freed in west Beirut last week. The 13 Westerners kidnapped this year, among them diplomats, priests and journalists, include U.S., Dutch, Swiss, French and British nationals.

An Armenian politician and journalist also was kidnapped in west Beirut last week as well as four Jews, including 65-year-old Isaac Sassoun, the head of Lebanon's tiny Jewish community.

The Armenian community called a daylong strike on Tuesday to protest the March 28 abduction of Sarkis Zeitalian, international committee member of the right-wing Tashnak Party and editor of the party's weekly newspaper, Aztag.

All Armenian schools, shops and businesses were closed in the Muslim and Christian sectors of the Lebanese capital. Armenian religious and political leaders issued public statements calling for the safe release of Mr. Zeitalian and his Armenian driver, who was also kidnapped.

France welcomed the release Tuesday of a French diplomat kidnapped two weeks ago in Lebanon and said it was pursuing efforts to free two other members of the French embassy staff captured in Beirut.

An External Affairs Ministry official said that Gilles Peyrolles, who disappeared in Tripoli a fortnight ago, was freed Tuesday and was in good health at the embassy in Beirut.

"France is extremely pleased over his release and thanks all those whose efforts helped to obtain it. We are continuing our efforts to secure the release of the other Frenchmen," the spokesman said.

He declined to name those who aided the government in securing the release of Mr. Peyrolles.

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POLO MATCH: The Jordanian National Polo team led by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan poses for photograph with the British Royal Guards Polo team Tuesday at the end of a match in Zarqa (see story on page 6)

Carter says Mideast peace effort dead

NEW YORK (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said that the peace process in the Middle East "is dead," since the administration of President Ronald Reagan failed to support Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's recent diplomatic initiative.

On a recent visit to Washington, Mr. Mubarak asked the United States to host a delegation of Jordanians and Palestinians for talks leading to direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

The Reagan administration at first appeared to reject the proposal, but now says it is looking into the possibility of hosting such a delegation. Before launching a new peace initiative, the Reagan administration has insisted that

the PLO accept Israel's right to exist, as outlined in U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Mr. Carter said on the ABC Television network's "Good Morning America" that the U.S. commitment to Israel not to recognize the PLO had not prevented Mr. Reagan from accepting help from the PLO in withdrawing American forces from Lebanon. He said his own administration used the PLO when it tried to keep Iran from putting American hostages in Tehran on trial.

"With this recent move forward, which we don't know the extent of, between (PLO leader Yasser) Arafat and King Hussein, there's an area there for at least exploration," Mr. Carter said.

"That's what brought President Mubarak to Washington, to ask the United States just to let the Secretary of State or the president or some top official explore how sincere the move toward peace might be."

"But we have in effect rejected the application from Mubarak," he said.

He said the United States "has to be a catalyst" if peace is to be achieved in the Middle East.

"Jordan and the PLO have gone as far as they can without some instigation or some listening ear. In the past, under presidents (Richard) Nixon and (Gerald) Ford and under me, the listening ear was in Washington," Mr. Carter said.

Camp David accord seen as most successful policy venture

NEW YORK — The American public regards the Camp David peace negotiations of 1978 as Washington's most successful foreign policy venture of recent years, according to a New York Times poll that shows considerably broader support for the Middle East accord than for the invasion of Grenada in 1983.

The poll suggested that successful diplomacy appeals to the American public at least as much as successful military activity, in the view of several public opinion experts, even at a time when support for the military and willingness to use United States troops abroad is increasing.

Asked to rate Washington's handling of five foreign policy situations on a scale of 1 to 10, the public gave the Camp David negotiations, involving President Carter, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel, the highest rating, at an average of 6.45. They were followed by the Grenada situation at 5.66, the Iranian hostage crisis at 4.95, the bombings of the United States embassy in Lebanon at 4.18 and the response to the Soviet shooting down of a South Korean airliner at 3.96 — New York Times.

State Department to ask Congress to resist call for economic aid to Israel

WASHINGTON — The State Department, seeking to ease congressional impatience over the Reagan administration's failure to act on Israel's request for \$1.4 billion in emergency economic aid, is expected to ask Congress this week to resist calls for action on the funds without an administration request.

U.S. officials and congressional sources said the plea will be made Tuesday at closed meetings of two key House subcommittees by William Schneider Jr., undersecretary of state for security affairs, and Herbert Stein, a former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors who has been advising Secretary of State George Shultz on the Israeli aid problem.

They are expected to tell subcommittee members that Mr. Stein, who recently visited Israel, has reached informal agreement with Prime Minister Shimon Peres on 10 "benchmark" measures to bring the inflation-ravaged Israeli economy under tighter budgetary and financial control.

But they also will argue that if the United States prematurely approves a massive infusion of aid, Israel's coalition government might decide it does not have to make the political decisions necessary for the "benchmark"

steps. If that happens, they will contend, Israel's economic difficulties will worsen and U.S. assistance will not help in achieving structural reforms the administration believes are necessary to restore Israel to financial health.

Israel's supporters are expected to argue that if the administration does not submit a formal request during the markup, the committee should proceed unilaterally to provide the \$1.4 billion over a two-year period. Their plan calls for the first \$800 million to be made available immediately as a supplement to this year's budget, with the balance to be disbursed in fiscal 1986.

There has been increasing friction between Congress and the administration over what Israel's supporters charge is an attempt to use the emergency aid as a lever to impose a U.S. fostered austerity programme.

Mr. Shultz criticised some of the Peres government's fiscal measures as counterproductive.

Mr. Shultz is known to have been influenced by W. Allen Wallis, his undersecretary for economic affairs and one of those who contend U.S. aid will be ineffective unless Israel adopts strong austerity measures.

U.S. reiterates stance on Israeli settlements as obstacle to peace

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department Spokesman Bernard Kalb reiterated the U.S. stance on Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories as "an obstacle to the peace process."

Mr. Kalb was asked for comment on a report released over the weekend in Israel which charges that Israel has seized effective control of more than half of the land in the West Bank during the 19 years the territory has been occupied by Israel.

The report was prepared by the Jerusalem-based West Bank Data Base Project, headed by Mervin Benvenisti, a former deputy mayor of Jerusalem and long-term critic of Israeli policy in the West Bank.

"We have not yet seen the report," Mr. Kalb said. "We look forward to the opportunity to study the report in detail. I have no comment at this time on its contents."

The spokesman pointed out that the United States has said on many occasions that "we regard settlement activity in the occupied territories as an obstacle to the peace process."

"We do not, however, share the view of some that activities on the ground rule out the possibility of a negotiated settlement," Mr. Kalb said. "To the contrary, we believe that the facts brought out in studies such as the 1984 report by the West Bank Data Base Project point to the urgency of achieving a negotiated resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on Israel's return of territory in exchange for a just and durable peace."

"To this end," the spokesman said, "we remain committed to the positions set forth in the president's Sept. 1, 1982, peace initiative."

Later, the State Department press office, in a written response to a reporter's question, said the United States "will not support annexation or permanent control of the West Bank or Gaza by Israel. The reporter had asked about comments made by Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who said Gaza was an integral part of Israel and that he would not favour its return to former Palestinian Arabs in any future settlement.

The department noted that President Reagan said on Sept. 1, 1982, "the United States will not support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, and we will not support annexation or permanent control by Israel."

"Our position remains that United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 applies to all fronts, including the West Bank and Gaza, and that self-government by the Palestinians of these areas in association with Jordan offers the best chance for a durable and just peace," the department's written answer said.

Mr. Kalb was asked for comment on weekend news reports that asserted Secretary of State Shultz has warned Israel that it could expect direct reprisals if any of the Americans being held hostage in Lebanon are killed by the pro-Iranian extremist group Islamic Jihad.

"We do not comment on communications we may or may not have had with other governments," Mr. Kalb said in a reiterated statement of standard State Department policy. "U.S. policy regarding terrorism is well known," the spokesman added. "President Reagan and other administration officials have expressed our determination to respond with whatever actions we deem most appropriate against those responsible for terrorist attacks."

Pro-government rally held in Khartoum amid strikes

KHARTOUM (AP) — The ruling Sudanese Socialist Union turned out thousands of supporters to cheer for President Jaafar Numeiri Tuesday the eve of a strike and demonstration, planned by major professional unions, to oust him.

Meantime, doctors in Omdurman and Khartoum north, which with Khartoum constitute the capital region, joined their colleagues in the capital itself in refusing to work.

Striking doctors at Omdurman University Hospital said even private clinics and emergency wards were shut down to protest the arrests of Khartoum doctors leading the job action. They said only the Khartoum general hospital emergency ward remained open "for the sake of the people."

Despite the arrests, and government threats of more, organisers said they still plan to expand the strike on Wednesday to

involve lawyers, judges, university professors, engineers and other professionals. Their declared aim is the removal of Mr. Numeiri.

Reporters estimated about 3,000 people attended the pro-government rally in Khartoum's main Martyrs Square. Green-clad soldiers and pink-beretted paratroopers joined regular police and truckloads of riot squads in guarding against trouble, but the rally passed without incident.

To cheers, clapping and the sound of ululating women, speakers exhorted the crowd to join forces against the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, "radical Arab Baathists," communists and anybody else who opposes the government. It has blamed the three groups for three days of rioting last week that followed student-led demonstrations against recent increases in prices of essential commodities.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
17:00 — Koran	06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Waveguide 06:40 Book Choice 06:45 Financial News
17:10 — Children's Programme	06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News
17:25 — Children's Programme	07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30
18:00 — Sport	07:40 24 Hours: The World Today
18:30 — Programme Review	08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Outlook 08:40
19:00 — News Programme	08:50 World News 09:20 24 Hours: News Summary
19:30 — Poetry	09:45 That's The World 10:00 World News
19:55 — News in Arabic	10:05 Reflections 10:15 Classical Review
20:00 — Arabic Series	10:20 Newsweek 10:30 Outlook 10:40
20:35 — Programme Review	10:45 World News 10:50 24 Hours: News Summary
21:00 — News in Arabic	10:55 That's The World 11:00 World News
21:30 — Foreign Channel	11:05 Reflections 11:15 Classical Review
18:00 French Programme: "Des chiffres et des lettres"	11:20 Newsweek 11:30 Outlook 11:40
18:30 — News in French	11:45 World News 11:50 24 Hours: News Summary
19:00 — Microscope	11:55 That's The World 12:00 World News
19:15 — News in Hebrew	12:05 Reflections 12:15 Classical Review
19:30 — News in Arabic	12:20 Newsweek 12:30 Outlook 12:40
20:00 — Up the Elephant and Round the Camel (Eps. 5)	12:45 World News 12:50 24 Hours: News Summary
21:20 — Cezanne	12:55 That's The World 13:00 World News
22:00 — News in English	13:05 Reflections 13:15 Classical Review
22:30 — The Golden Honeycomb	13:20 Newsweek 13:30 Outlook 13:40
	13:45 World News 13:50 24 Hours: News Summary
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Tax department collects JD 24m this year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Income Tax Department (ITD) collected JD 24 million in the first quarter of this year compared with JD 19 million in the same period last year, thus registering a 26 per cent increase, ITD Director Salman Al Tarawneh announced here Tuesday.

He said that the increase is due mainly to a better system of collection and the awareness of the public and cooperation between various institutions and the department. Also, the ITD's system of offering incentives to those paying

their tax early helped to make the process a success, Mr. Tarawneh said.

He expressed his satisfaction with the result and said that it reflects the healthy Jordanian economy. Those who submit their statements about their income and who pay taxes in the first three months of every year benefit from the incentives but those who delay paying the taxes beyond the allowed limit usually have to pay a two per cent fine on their dues, Mr. Tarawneh said.

More tourist groups from U.S., Europe visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is registering an increase in the number of tourist groups coming from Europe and the United States, according to Jordan Tourist Authority (JTA) Acting Director General Mohammad Ra'ef Al Laham.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, he said that such an increase is the result of continued marketing efforts by the JTA during which agreements were reached with 54 leading travel agencies in Europe to promote Jordan to tourists. He added that local hotels were also involved by

offering package deals for visits of between six days and two weeks.

He added that hotel occupancy rates in Amman, Aqaba and Petra for this year have risen to higher rates compared to the same period in 1984.

Mr. Laham added that bookings contacted by travel agencies indicate that the number of tourists will continue to increase and that occupancy and overnight stays will also rise.

No figures of actual tourist numbers were quoted by Mr. Laham.

10-year old boy drowns in rooftop water tank

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 10-year old boy drowned Monday and his seven-year old brother is seriously ill in hospital as a result of falling into a large water tank on the roof of a school next to their home in Amman, according to a report in Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily newspaper.

The report said that the two brothers were playing football with a friend in the neighbourhood when the ball accidentally fell in the school's yard and then bounced, only to drop into the water tank.

One of the boys, Gbazi Al Sabe', stretched out his hand to recover the ball but his foot slipped and he fell and his brother trying to rescue him also fell, the

report said. According to the report their friend raised the alarm alerting an Egyptian labourer who rushed to help the three children. The labourer, Mahmoud Al Rifai, pulled out one of the brothers from the water and resuscitated him while the boy was dead when pulled out of the water, the report said.

The water tank, which had been left uncovered, was built of cement, five metres long, three metres wide and two metres high and contains drinking water for the school children. The boys were taken to the Jordan University Hospital but the elder brother was pronounced dead of suffocation due to drowning.

Criminal court sentences two for attempted murder

By Ahmad Kreishan

AMMAN — The criminal court in Amman has sentenced two people identified only as JS and SA to seven and a half years in prison with hard labour and two and a half years in prison with hard labour respectively for attempted murder. They were found to have shot and wounded their friend (Sh. M.) before making away to their car.

The two convicted persons visited the victim at home and stayed with him until past midnight dining together and debating what seemed to be a very heated subject, the court statement said. The

two attackers left but later returned and parked their car near the victim's home.

One of them, JS, knocked at the door of the house calling his friend to help move the car which, he said, had failed to start. The victim accompanied his friend to the car but at a short distance from it, JS produced a gun and fired wounding the victim in the leg which caused him a permanent injury and unemployment for a whole year, the statement said.

Following the incident the two escaped and the police took a very long time to apprehend them and bring them to justice, according to the court's statement.

Yarmouk hosts symposium on application of linguistics

IRBID (Petra) — A three day conference on linguistics opened at Yarmouk University Tuesday. Participants from Arab universities will discuss subjects connected with the teaching of English as a foreign language and the science of languages in theory and application.

Addressing the opening session was Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran who expressed hope that all efforts will be exerted towards laying down a policy for preparing English language teaching curricula in Arab universities and reaching recommendations which could be applied in this respect.

Dr. Badran outlined the role Yarmouk University plays in the process of interaction between researchers and teaching staff for

the sake of giving momentum to scientific research and the exchange of expertise among Arab universities.

Another speaker at the opening session was Dr. Shaher Al Hassan, chairman of the conference's preparatory committee, who emphasised the importance of holding such conferences and also discussed the subjects to be reviewed in the meetings.

Taking part in the conference are linguists from Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, Sudan, Kuwait, Aden, Bethlehem, Birzeit University, the American University of Beirut, Damascus University, Cairo University and the international linguistics centre at Khartoum, Sudan.

Ministries to provide Na'our with health, public services

NA'OUR (Petra) — The Health Ministry is currently building a JD 120,000 model health centre in Na'our, 15 kilometres west of here, which will offer services to the town and nearby villages, according to Na'our Mayor Khalaf Al Musa.

He said that the centre, which is being built on an area of three dunums, will include a laboratory, an X-Ray department and a section with beds for patients. Another ministry is helping Na'our to carry out projects, the

mayor said. He explained that the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment has granted Na'our 15 dunums of land to establish a mini-sports city and another 28 dunums for a cemetery. The municipality is now introducing improvements to roads and pavements in different parts of the town, Mr. Musa said.

The mayor also called on the townspeople to pay fees and other taxes to enable the municipality to carry out its public service projects.



Members of the cabinet and the Lower House of Parliament in action Tuesday during a session to discuss accounting and tax on funds for orphans (Petra photo)

Extraordinary session of Lower House endorses orphans', accounting laws

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday endorsed two recommendations by its financial committee regarding the Orphans' Finance Development and Management Institution and the book keeping profession in the Kingdom.

The house endorsed a law passed by the government under which the Islamic Zakat (restricted income tax) would be paid to orphans' money in accordance with the Islamic Shari'a laws.

After a slight amendment, the house also voted in favour of a provisional law restricting the practice of the book keeping profession to those carrying certain academic qualifications and degrees.

In its report, the financial committee said orphans' money should be liable for Zakat in accordance with the Shari'a law for all Muslims. The committee said the law should be implemented on all Muslims, including companies and institutions.

Deputy Khaled Al Haj Hassan said the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution stated the inadmissibility of amending a law before being handled

by the parliament. He said: "The law was not presented to the house and cannot be endorsed according to the constitution."

Deputy Salman Qudab agreed with Mr. Hassan and suggested a vote on the finance committee recommendation. However, Deputy Abdul Baqi Gammo expressed his astonishment at "those who try to hinder the constitution with the constitution." He said the constitution states that the Kingdom's religion is Islam and that "no laws should be issued contradicting that."

Deputy Ahmad Kofahi expressed his gratitude for the financial committee for following the Islamic Shari'a in issuing laws.

Lower House Speaker Akef Al Fayed called the law to the vote which was endorsed by the required majority of deputies.

The law on controlling book keeping and accounting in the Kingdom endorsed by the house as recommended by the financial committee, stipulates that only Jordanian nationals can practice the profession. The law also stipulates that only individuals over 18 years of age who have no record of a moral crime of felony can apply for the job of book keeper in government departments and ins-

titutions. It also said that applicants should hold university or college degrees in the field and should be able to pass a test in accountancy and book keeping.

At the beginning of the extraordinary session, Deputy Laith Shbeilat objected against the house issuing political statements during an extraordinary session and said that the move was a violation of the constitution.

Mr. Shbeilat was referring to two statements issued by Lower House Speaker Akef Al Fayed after the last extraordinary session regarding the Iraq-Iraq war and the situation to South Lebanon.

When Mr. Shbeilat tried to read a prepared statement to explain the reasons behind his objection, Mr. Fayed interrupted and did not give him permission to speak. When he tried again, Mr. Fayed again stopped him which made Mr. Shbeilat walk out in protest.

Attending the session were Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar, and cabinet members Absent were deputies Farah Abu Jabr, Abdul Wahab Tarawneh, Sudqi Ja'bari, Ryad Nawayseh, Marwan Hmoud, Rizk Batayneh and Musa Abu Ghosh.

Municipality aims for a 'clean, green and blooming city' by end of the year

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Rawabdeh has said that the municipality is keen to turn Amman into a "clean, green and blooming" city by the end of the current year.

Addressing the public in an open discussion Monday, Mr. Rawabdeh and the municipal council of Amman outlined the municipality's policies, achievements and projected goals inside the city's boundaries.

Responding to a question on the lack of sanitary sites in the city, and especially downtown, Mr. Rawabdeh pointed out that the municipality has recently undertaken a scheme to set up two sanitary units as from this year. A tender for JD 100,000 to establish the units has already been awarded to a local company, he added.

The new two units, in addition to the present seven which are under maintenance, will help solve the problem, he said, and he also promised to follow up on the scheme.

Mr. Rawabdeh went on to say in the discussions, following a mee-

ting of the municipal council, that the municipality's expenditures for cleaning procedures reach JD 3 million a year while it receives only JD 1.25 million as garbage collection fees. The difference to price is paid from the municipality budget, he said, adding that the municipality bought garbage collecting vehicles at a cost of JD 1 million in 1985. The mayor said that commercial buildings would not be licensed unless they are provided with healthy sanitary units and car parks.

Painting houses white

Turning to painting houses white, the mayor said that it is essential that buildings inside the boundary of Amman, which is 95 square kilometres, are painted white. However, citizens can paint 20 per cent of the building in a colour of their own choice, he said, adding that the municipality has a future plan to paint doors and windows in light blue provided that buildings are repainted every three years.

Regarding the municipality's decision to move craftsmen from the suburbs of Amman, Mr. Raw-

abdeh said the decision will only apply to those craftsmen who have not obtained vocational licences. Those who are being licensed and located in housing areas will stay in their current locations unless the municipality gives them a suitable substitute, the mayor added. He mentioned that the municipality is in the process of setting up two vocational industrial cities in Wadi Reman and Tahin besides the two others in Wadi Seer and Tarek region.

During the open discussion, the first to be held in the presence of the municipal council, Mr. Rawabdeh announced that the municipality is planning to install 40 fountains in Amman. He said that four fountains have already been installed.

The municipality's old location downtown is now being demolished in order to be turned into a public park, together with the old Philadelphia Hotel which was appropriated by the municipality. The park is expected to open in June, he added. The municipality will also operate a cable car to link Jabal Qala'a with downtown. Mr. Rawabdeh said.

Traffic volume rises 800 per cent in 14 years

4,830 dead, 68,440 injured due to road accidents since 1970

By Ahmad Kreishan
Petra

AMMAN — A total of 4,830 persons were killed and 68,440 others were injured in road accidents in Jordan between 1970 and 1983, the Public Security Department (PSD) announced Tuesday. It said that the number of accidents which occurred during these 14 years were 115,189 mostly in the capital, Amman.

The department's statistical bulletin indicated that a steady growth in the volume of traffic, as a result of an increase in the number of vehicles over this period, is likely to be the main cause for this great number of casualties. There were 21,970 vehicles in Jordan in 1970 compared with 197,783 in 1983, which means an increase of 800 per cent in 14 years, the bulletin said.

The report said that most of the accidents occurred on Thursdays and Saturdays when the number of cars on the road increases as employees are either going on vacation or returning to work.

According to the bulletin, Tuesdays and Fridays were the days with the least number of accidents as on Fridays most Jordanians are out of town in the Jordan Valley, Jerash or Ajloun while on Tuesdays many government-owned vehicles are not allowed to carry out activity because it is a day for repair, thus contributing to a reduction in road accidents.

The bulletin said the capital witnessed most of the road accidents between 1970 and 1983; in 1979 Amman's share of road accidents was 45 per cent of the total number, but dropped to only 34 per cent in 1983, the report explained. It said that Irbid came second and was followed in order by Zarqa, Balqa, Karak, Badia, Aqaba and Ma'an.

Summer accident peak

According to the bulletin, most of the road accidents occurred during the summer between June and September, reaching a peak in July because schools are closed and the streets are full of playing children due to the lack of proper parks and children gardens. The high accident rate in summer is also due to the presence in Jordan of a large number of Jordanian expatriates who come for vacation and also because Jordan has a central location in the Arab World, serving as a crossroads for all vehicles and trucks carrying goods to and from Europe and the Gulf region, according to the bulletin.

The report indicated that 57 per cent of the total accidents which occurred in Jordan in the past five years involved collisions or cars hitting one another and 24 per cent involved knocking down pedestrians.

The report said that the in-

creasing number of road accidents has been causing great loss for the country; in 1981 losses to the Jordanian economy were estimated at JD 63 million as a result of these accidents.

The report, however, indicated that 1983 registered a relatively lower number of road accidents and it attributed it to the application of the new traffic law which provides for stricter penalties for traffic violators and a noticeable improvement in the condition of roads in the country in addition to the construction of cross-sections and bridges which reduced congestions at this time.

Educating schoolchildren

The report said that most of

those knocked down in the accidents were children under 15 years of age, especially between 1979 and 1983. It said that in view of the situation the Ministry of Education, in cooperation with other departments and municipalities, should take proper measures to reduce this type of accident and thereby save children's lives.

In December last year, a one-day seminar on the safety of pedestrians held in Zarqa recommended setting up a higher council for the prevention of road accidents with extensive administrative, legal and financial powers.

The seminar recommended that municipalities enlarge pavements, especially in crowded streets in order to afford space for pedestrians, and that adequate traffic lights and other signs be placed in prominent areas to help avoid accidents. The seminar also called for offering drivers more training in traffic awareness, involving radio, television and the press in spreading awareness among the public and introducing traffic awareness subjects into school textbooks.

\$110m barter deal to boost trade with Egypt

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A \$110 million barter agreement has been signed in Amman between Jordan and Egypt. The agreement includes a one million tonne purchase from the Jordanian South Cement Company (SCC) to be exported to Egypt in June 1985, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Nasr Export, Import Company Kamal Hilali said Monday.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, before leaving for Cairo, Mr. Hilali said the cement contract is expected to see the light within two months, after organising payment through banks to be accredited for the purpose.

Commenting on the price of Jordanian cement, Mr. Hilali said: "The prices are 10 per cent more than international cement prices, however the high quality of Jordanian cement makes up for the difference in price."

Speaking about means of transporting the cement to Egypt, Mr. Hilali said that a feasibility study has been conducted and the solution is to provide a bulk storage, loading and shipping facilities at Aqaba port, to be equipped by the Jordanian side. Bulk cement will be transported through trucks to be prepared and packed

on board the bulk carrier and the cement sacks will be discharged at Suez, he said.

Approximately 75,000 tonnes are due to be exported per month with an average of 3,000 tonnes a day taking into account a month of 25 working days, he added.

The SCC declined to comment on the cement contract. The agreement also provides for an exchange of pharmaceutical products on reciprocal basis between the two countries. In this regard, a Jordanian delegation is due to leave for Cairo this month to conduct talks aimed to define the drugs and products to be exchanged via this contract, Mr. Hilali said.

Egypt has 18 pharmaceutical factories and it is also known that Egypt represents an inviting market for imported medical products, he added.

Among the products to be exported to Egypt is aluminium fluoride, while the Jordanian market will receive Egyptian rice, aluminium iodates, vegetables and industrial materials.

Mr. Hilali voiced hope that this one-year agreement would be the "corner stone of new era in bilateral trade relations between the two countries and that it would boost trade exchange and promote economic cooperation between Jordan and Egypt."

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Only those who meet the above requirements will be considered for testing and interview. Preference will be given to Jordanian nationals.

Abbadi returns from Islamic talks in India

AMMAN (Petra) — Indian Muslims look towards Arab countries for educational grants which would enable them to learn Arabic, Islamic Law (Shari'a) and other subjects pertaining to the Islamic religion, and hope to be provided with publications on Islam, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi said here Tuesday.

Speaking upon returning to Jordan from a visit to India, Dr. Abbadi said that Indian Muslims hope that Arab and Islamic countries will extend financial aid to Islamic universities and higher educational institutions in India which offer training to tens of thousands of students in the subjects of Arabic and Shari'a.

Dr. Abbadi took part in an international conference on Islamic religion which opened in Hyderabad, India, on March 29. He said that Islamic and Muslim scholars from Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Pakistan and India took part in the three-day conference.

Dr. Abbadi submitted a research paper to the conference outlining ways to learn from Islam in confronting the Zionist occupation in Palestine.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Board of Directors: JUMA A-HAMMAD

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Clear meaning of Sidon

THE FIGHTING in and around Sidon has a very clear meaning: The Israelis want it and are helping the Falangists to take it to the bitter end.

Israel stands to gain a lot from the "Lebanese Forces" assault on the refugee camps of Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh. Uppermost on the Israeli mind must be Gen. Sharon's old dream of driving all Palestinians out of Lebanon. Secondly, there is the humiliation to the authority of the Lebanese government that would undoubtedly ensue from the breakout of hostilities among the Lebanese of the South and the Palestinians in the wake of Israel's withdrawal from the area. There is also the ground that Israel's allies hope to gain from the fighting — whether this ground is made up of strategic road links or areas close to the Israeli border with Lebanon. And, fourthly, there is the Syrian connection which the Israelis hope to employ in fuelling inter-Palestinian and inter-Lebanese rivalries.

In 1983, just before Israel withdrew from the Shouf Mountains, the same "Lebanese Forces", which are now shelling the Palestinian refugee camps and units of the Lebanese army in and around Sidon, tried to gain a foothold in the South and themselves drive the Palestinians out. But Israel did not want that to happen then, preferring instead to rely on Saad Haddad to do the job for them. Haddad and the "Lebanese Forces" at the time were rivals, and Israel wanted the late renegade Major to carry out the Israeli plan — not the "treacherous" Falangists from the north.

What happened afterwards is recent history. Everything went awry for the Israelis until the time Samir Geagea revolted against President Gemayel. And all of a sudden the Falangists were back in the South to do exactly what they are doing now — once again in the service of Israel.

The question that poses itself in the aftermath is the role of the Lebanese government in all of this — and also Syria's hidden hand in it. For it is inconceivable that Beirut cannot send enough reinforcements to hold off the Falangists and to protect its own people and the Palestinians in Sidon, at such a critical time for all of them. Israel, on its part, must know that its old dirty tricks cannot be but short-lived and harmful, even to itself. The Arabs, in the meantime, cannot afford to sit and watch, for there are massacres and destitution in the making if nothing is done about the situation. His Majesty King Hussein's telephone conversation with the PLO chairman on Monday evening is an urgent testimony to the seriousness of the new South Lebanon crisis. Jordan's call on the Arab League to discuss the matter must be urgently heeded to avoid yet another setback for the Arabs.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Dustour: Manipulating a Jew's death

THE ISRAELI authorities Monday took vengeance on the students of Bethlehem University for the alleged killing in Al Bireh of a Jewish settler a few days ago. The Israeli troops opened fire on the students, injuring four of them, committing aggression on the university campus and in total disregard of educational considerations. This incident could pave the way for closing down the University of Bethlehem as the Israelis did with Birzeit University earlier.

The attack on the students coincided with other attacks on Palestinians in Ramallah, Al Bireh and the Dheishe refugee camp near Bethlehem. The escalation of the Israeli acts of aggression on the Arabs is well-planned and orchestrated in all parts of the occupied Arab territories. This policy is aimed at forcing the Arab inhabitants to abandon their homeland. The death of the Jewish settler in Al Bireh was only a pretext for the Israelis to carry out repressive measures against the Arabs. What is more serious is the decision by the settlers of Beit El colony to set up a new Israeli colony near Al Bireh on the occupied West Bank to be named after the killed settler. This clearly indicates the evil intentions of the Israeli authorities of building a colony on Arab lands to bear the name of every settler allegedly killed by the Arabs.

The killing of the Jewish settler and the resistance the Palestinians launch against the Israeli occupation force reflect the Arab people's determination to cling firmly to their land and demonstrate the Palestinians' will to maintain their steadfastness and the struggle until freedom is attained.

Al Ra'i: Racists have same friends

IN OCCUPIED Palestine, like in South Africa, the owners of the land face organised terrorism led by the state and implemented with utmost cruelty and barbarism. Of course the international community has on several occasions and at different forums condemned the racist regime of South Africa, but certain world powers still support that regime and extend aid to it, exactly as they do in their relations with the racist Zionist regime that rules Palestine. These powers do not only grant these regimes absolute support but also guarantee their political protection in world forums and prevent any world condemnation of their actions at the United Nations.

All human laws and legislations have given man the right to defend his own dignity and land in the face of aggression, and acting in harmony with these principles, the Arab resistance in Palestine executed the Zionist settler in Al Bireh. The killing of the settler was in self-defence against the aggressive measures of the Israeli settlers who continue to use force against the Arabs with the purpose of depriving them of their land and their rights.

The killing brought out more Israeli arbitrary actions, exactly as in the case of South Africa where the local inhabitants are being discriminated against and dealt with an inhuman and barbaric manner.

What is surprising is that these actions have not drawn any reaction from those nations which brag about their concern for human rights and justice. Escalation of the struggle and the resistance activity against Zionist and South African racists will be the only effective reply to these atrocities.

Reagan-Gorbachev meeting probable in 1985

By Sidney Welland
Reuter

LONDON — A summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev later this year has become highly probable, senior Western officials say.

Both sides appear interested, although officials caution the idea could be derailed if U.S.-Soviet arms talks break down or there is a sudden, sharp deterioration in relations.

But there are already signs both governments want to keep the slate clean so as not to spoil the chances of a summit.

When a Soviet sentry shot and killed a U.S. military liaison officer in East Germany on March 24, U.S. reaction was measured. Mr. Reagan, 74, said it made him even "more anxious" for a meeting with Gorbachev, who is 20

years younger.

Western officials said both governments seemed to be fencing over a summit, neither wanting to appear too eager.

Some U.S. experts on Soviet affairs think Mr. Gorbachev needs a meeting more than Mr. Reagan does, and the president should not make it too easy for the newly-installed Communist Party chief.

"It would sanctify Mr. Gorbachev's status as nothing else can," one analyst says.

Both men are seen as having an interest in meeting soon, and a firm go-ahead is expected when Secretary of State George Shultz meets Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Vienna in May.

They will make use of the 30th anniversary of the Austrian state treaty on May 15 to review progress in the first six weeks of resumed U.S.-Soviet arms negotiations in Geneva.

Vienna would be a logical venue at which to prepare for Mr. Reagan's first encounter with a Soviet leader. He is the only president in 50 years not to have met his Kremlin counterpart.

The anniversary of the 1955 East-West treaty, which restored Austria's independence after World War II, is one of several celebrations that can provide a cover for low-key Soviet-American meetings.

Western diplomats believe a less formal get-together on the periphery of a big international conference is more likely than the highly stylised "special event" summits of the past.

The last top-level U.S.-Soviet meeting was between President Jimmy Carter and the late Leonid Brezhnev in Vienna in 1979. Some officials say another surprise summit in neutral Austria

also remains a possibility.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev can meet at two international occasions this year: a late-July/early August meeting in Helsinki for the 10th anniversary of the First Conference on European Security, and the 40th anniversary of the United Nations in October.

Finland has pressed hard to turn the commemoration of the 1975 Helsinki "Final Act", a code of good-neighbourly relations for Europe, into a summit of all 35 signatory states.

But the U.S. and other Western governments are reluctant to dramatise an accord whose human rights provisions they say have been consistently breached by Moscow.

This represents a bad mark against Helsinki, and it is likely only foreign ministers will attend, diplomats say.

If Helsinki is out, the most favoured location will inevitably be New York, where the United Nations hopes some 50 world leaders will attend a series of meetings ending in the Oct. 24 anniversary of the U.N. Charter.

Mr. Gorbachev told U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar last month he would consider attending.

Mr. Reagan is certain to take part and has offered a summit in New York. He has said prospects for a meeting soon are good.

A summit within the orbit of the U.N. would satisfy Mr. Reagan's preference to hold it on American territory.

The president sent an invitation to Mr. Gorbachev when Vice President George Bush went to the funeral of Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko last month. This was two days after Mr. Gor-

bachev took over as Communist Party general secretary.

Mr. Reagan's liking for a summit in the United States appears to be his only condition. Previous U.S. demands that such a meeting should be thoroughly prepared and should offer reasonable prospects for results have not been repeated.

Moscow has been publicly non-committal, and Washington is waiting for Mr. Gorbachev to make the next move. "The ball is in their court, they have to come to us," White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan said recently.

Some officials advise waiting for a clear Soviet request. Ex-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said last week it was too soon for a summit. "I'm not in favour of asking for a summit. I think the participants ought to be well prepared," he said.

Chilean murders renew fears of spiral violence

By Simon Alterman
Reuter

SANTIAGO — The murder of three government opponents last weekend has renewed fears among Chileans that political stalemate is generating a spiral of violence from both ends of the ideological spectrum.

Manuel Guerrero, a leader of an opposition teachers' union Jose Manuel Parada, a human rights worker, and commercial artist Santiago Nativio were found in a ditch with their throats cut at the end of a week in which five other people died in political violence. Three were leftists killed in in-

idents described officially as gun battles and the other two were security agents killed by a bomb after being lured to a hotel room. The week also saw two spectacular car bombings in the heart of Santiago.

Under the state of siege imposed by President Augusto Pinochet last November, political activities by both government supporters and opponents advocating non-violent change have been severely restricted and their views ignored by censored media.

Centrist politicians and diplomats say this may be partly due to an attempt by General Pinochet

to recreate the political vacuum of the years immediately following the 1973 military coup against an elected left-wing government.

"The government has consciously tried to cut away the middle ground," said one diplomat. "In a country where the media is now almost totally controlled, the only groups which can get any publicity are the government and the terrorist left."

"This is partly the confrontation Pinochet likes and thinks he can win."

Human rights groups say the nature of the latest murders sug-

gests an attempt to turn back the clock in another, more sinister way.

Lawyers at the Vicaria of Solidarity, a Roman Catholic Church group, said abduction by armed men in plainclothes was the trademark of the security services from 1973 to 1976.

"This is a big step backwards," said one, a colleague of Mr. Parada.

Though the government condemned the murders and promised an investigation, opponents and human rights groups do not doubt the security services were involved.

"In a regime like the one in power in Chile ... it is inconceivable that something like this could happen... without the complicity of security services or people linked to them," the opposition Christian Democratic Party said in a statement.

Santiago Archbishop Juan Francisco Fresno, who is responsible for the work of the Vicaria, called for an end of violence in his Palm Sunday sermon.

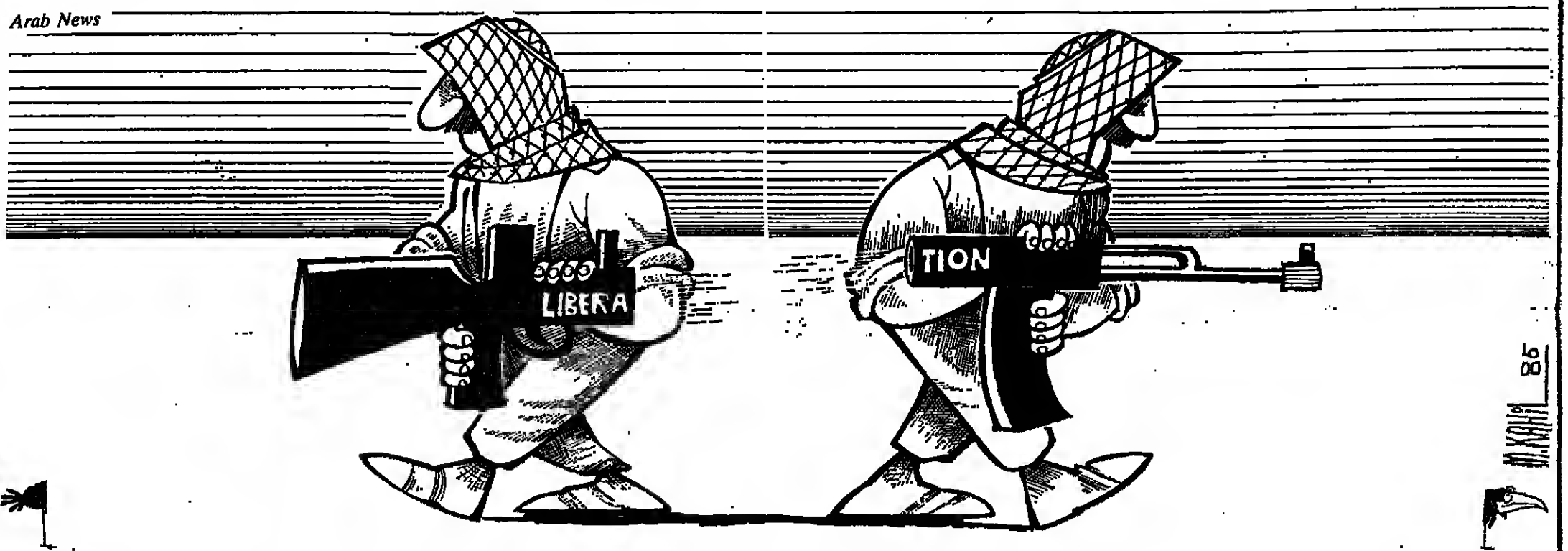
He was unable to finish. Demonstrators fleeing from clashes with riot police outside the packed cathedral disrupted the sermon

which, according to a prepared text, would have told all men of violence that they could not be children of God.

Many Chileans fear that last weekend's victims, all members of the Communist Party, were killed in reprisal for the hotel bombing and Santiago car bombs and that a new round of reprisal will follow.

Spokesmen for the Communists, when asked to justify their policy supporting acts of violence, had always said that they were an appropriate response to violence generated by the government.

Arab News



Manila launches hearts and minds campaign against opponents

By Joel Palacios
Reuter

MANILA — The Philippines is pouring millions of dollars into social and economic projects as part of a "hearts and minds" offensive against a Communist drive in the countryside.

The Communist New People's Army (NPA), which has been fighting President Ferdinand Marcos' government since 1969, has gained mass support in remote areas suffering from poverty and neglect from Manila, military and local officials say.

"It has become a hearts and minds battle to win the support of the people," Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos, the acting armed forces chief, told reporters. "It takes more than just a military approach to solve the problem."

President Marcos has released 40 million pesos (\$2 million) to build markets, medical clinics and

other projects to counter the Communist gains.

The "civil action" drive, with a budget of a billion pesos (\$50 million), is part of a security programme including a military equipment build-up, rigid training for recruits and a crackdown on military abuses, the presidential palace said.

Human rights groups and church officials say poorly-paid soldiers steal provisions from villagers and kill and torture those suspected of supporting the guerrillas.

This has driven farmers and peasants in the hinterlands to the side of the NPA, who have earned a Robin Hood image.

But lately the guerrillas have suffered setbacks because of a rash of apparently indiscriminate killings on their part and "taxes" collected at gunpoint, according to local government officials.

"The NPA usually exploits local grievances to win converts and executes criminals and corrupt officials to demonstrate their strength," said a mayor in the southern island of Mindanao.

The NPA had less than 100 fighters when it first took to the hills in 1969. Estimates of its strength now vary.

The underground Communist Party publication, Liberation, said last year the NPA mustered 20,000 guerrilla regulars operating in more than half the country's 73 provinces.

Mr. Marcos puts the figure at 12,000, and U.S. Assistant Defence Secretary Richard Armitage told a congressional committee this month it could be as high as 15,000, supported by up to one million people.

Washington keeps a close eye on its former colony, where it maintains two major military in-

stallations, Clark Air Base and Subic Bay naval base.

It has asked Congress to provide more than \$100 million in military and other aid to the Philippines next year.

Mr. Marcos said in a statement replying to Mr. Armitage that the government forces, which defeated the Communist Huk insurgency in the 1950s, were gaining battlefield successes.

"With the recent developments in the countryside, it is our intention that with the funds made available by the American government under the military bases agreement or under any arrangement that can be worked out it would not be difficult to repeat the victories the military achieved against all kinds of insurgency," Mr. Marcos said.

Guerrillas are active in the Cordillera Mountains to the north, in the hinterlands of Samar, Panay

and Negros Islands in central Philippines and in Mindanao, where soldiers are also fighting Muslim separatist rebels.

Lt.-Gen. Ramos said the NPA had targeted the major southern city of Davao as a test area for an urban offensive. Davao residents

say they count the number of days the guerrillas do not strike.

"The NPA has increased its presence here. People have joined it due to fear or alienation from the government or military abuses," said a resident.

LETTERS

Plays should earn costs

To the Editor:

I READ with interest and considerable concern the recent articles about the call by artists and playwrights for government support to promote Jordanian theatre.

To suggest that the government subsidise the curriculum in schools and universities so that they can include art, drama, and music etc. is wonderful. To suggest that the government consider tax and customs benefits to municipalities, clubs, and even individuals if they construct theatres or otherwise financially support productions and theatre is again wonderful. But to ask the government to subsidise the theatre is like asking it to subsidise restaurants! The government cannot afford to know what people like to eat. If the government should set the budget for theatre in Jordan, it has the right to influence or to control outright what the theatre shall perform. This dictates limits to what the artist can produce and what the public can enjoy. It would also limit competition for theatrical productions from other sources if not making competition altogether impossible.

The real artist must create because his talent demands expression; however, the audience will applaud only if they are pleased. For the theatre to be truly free and successful, the laws of the marketplace cannot be ignored. Much to an artist's frustration, he must, at times, give the audience what they think they want to see and are willing to pay for. The artist cannot force the public to appreciate his art.

Most theatres in the West operate on a profit and loss system like any other business. Groups, individuals, clubs, or shrewd businessmen finance plays. If the play is successful, all benefit. If not, everyone learns quickly "why" and avoids repeating the mistake.

If someone needs the government to finance his "art" in order that he survive as an "artist", he becomes, in actuality, an employee of the government. He would be wise to stop wasting his time as an "artist" and seek the secure, salaried job that he so obviously desires.

A. Sawalha,
P.O. Box 6916,
Amman

Handwritten signature: J. Al-Jarrah

Israel carries on Gaza demolition plot

From UNRWA
UNCERTAINTY about the future has always been an unpleasant reality of life for Palestine refugees. Now, dozens of refugee families in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip are experiencing added — and very real — uncertainty about where they will be living six months or a year from now.

Some of these families are awaiting decisions from the Israeli courts and military authorities which could force them to demolish their shelters and find alternative accommodation. Some have been offered land in government housing projects, on which they would have to pay to build their own houses; a condition of the offer is that the refugees have to undertake to demolish their shelters — many of which were built by The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) — before moving.

UNRWA, which provides education, health and relief services to about 350,000 registered Palestine refugees in the Gaza Strip, has repeatedly appealed to the authorities not to demolish shelters before residents have secured alternative accommodation.

According to UNRWA statistics, more than 20,000 rooms housing over 9,000 families and 55,000 persons have been demolished in the Gaza Strip since the Israeli occupation of June 1967. Most of these demolitions, affecting nearly 4,000 families, were done to make way for the widening of roads — stated to be for security reasons — in the Gaza camps. Some 3,500 families, with more than 21,000 members, are listed as having "voluntarily" demolished their shelters. It is believed that some 34,000 refugees have moved into housing projects sponsored by the Israeli authorities, after demolishing their

shelters, to date.

Other demolitions of shelters have been carried out in the Gaza Strip as punitive measures against individuals accused of contravening Israeli security regulations. Such demolitions, however, naturally affect the families of the individuals concerned. No such punitive demolitions have been reported in Gaza camps, however, since 1981.

Living space decreases

One argument often given for the demolitions is that they make the camps less congested. However, according to UNRWA officials in Gaza, the net result is that the amount of usable space in the camps decreases as the population continues to increase, since new building is not permitted on the sites of demolished structures. The population of the Gaza Strip has grown from 380,000 in 1967 to almost half a million today.

The demolition cases now being considered are from the sprawling Jabalia refugee camp, at the northwestern corner of the Gaza Strip. The official number of registered refugees in the camp is about 50,000, although perhaps 42,000 actually live there.

Like the other seven Gaza Strip camps, Jabalia was established to shelter refugees, mostly from the southern parts of Palestine, who fled following the establishment of Israel in 1948.

One of the Israeli sponsored housing schemes, Beit Lahia, is situated next to Jabalia camp. Although individuals electing to move there are allocated plots of land (average size: 125 square meters), the authorities often charge a fee for providing the infrastructure which, in practice, amounts to a charge for the land itself. In addition they must pay the cost of construction of houses. With the current economic rec-

ession in Israel, where many Gaza residents have been employed in recent years, unemployment is rising in the Gaza Strip. Families are using up their savings just for daily survival. As a result, fewer and fewer refugee families possess the means to build new houses outside the camps.

Many families who have received demolition notices are, therefore, threatened with becoming homeless. In Beach Camp (pop. 38,000), adjoining Gaza town, several families whose shelters were demolished in mid-1983 are still living virtually in the open. These refugees inhabited some 35 shelters which were bulldozed by the authorities on the grounds that they had been built either without a permit or on land that was outside the Beach Camp borders.

A visit to one of the families — comprising nine members without a working wage-earner — finds them squatting amid the salvaged remains of their former shelter with only a makeshift zinc roof over two of the rooms. "Yesterday when it rained, it rained on our heads," says one of the women.

Claims filed but no compensation

In demolition cases where the shelters were originally built in whole or in part by UNRWA or with assistance from UNRWA, the agency has filed claims with the authorities based on the current value of the structures. However, compensation has never been paid.

Disputes over the exact locations of camp boundaries have made it difficult for the refugees to challenge the demolition orders. The Gaza camps were first laid out when the Egyptian government administered the strip, and many of the benchmarks are no longer to be found.

In the case of Jabalia, for instance, UNRWA does not possess an exact map of the camp boundaries. The authorities contend that the camp comprises only the areas which were built on before 1967, but the agency maintains that it has not built on all the land allocated to it by the previous Egyptian administration due to a lack of funds. UNRWA has no legal claim to the privately built shelters now threatened with demolition. The Israelis want to expand the Beit Lahia housing project and are seeking additional land from Jabalia for that purpose. This could lead to more demolitions.

In one of the Gaza demolition cases pending before the Israeli High Court of Justice, a group of 35 Palestine refugee families last September secured a six-month extension of a temporary injunction against their eviction orders. The court ordered the authorities to use that time to negotiate fair compensation for the refugees.

Residents of Jabalia camp who were subsequently ordered to demolish their shelters and move to Beit Lahia obtained an order nisi from the high court in December 1984 halting the demolitions until adequate cause was shown. That order has since been lifted, but no demolitions have been carried out in that block. Threats have been made meanwhile, however, to demolish nearby citrus groves from which many of the same refugees earn their livings.

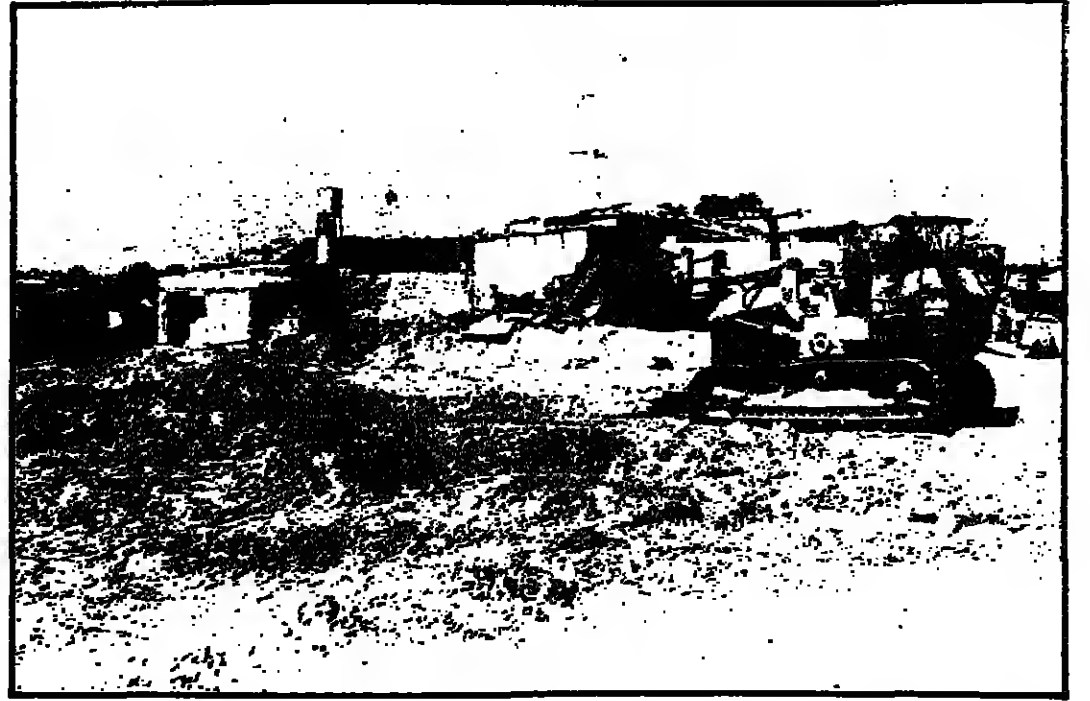
The most recent demolitions carried out in the Gaza Strip were in July 1984, when 10 private rooms and nine boundary walls were bulldozed in Jabalia, affecting 15 families with 85 persons, and in September 1984, when several rooms, sheds, trees, gardens and hedges were bulldozed in

Jabalia — while, at the same time, at least eight Jabalia families were warned that their shelters would be demolished. In these cases, the Israeli authorities contended that the shelters had been built without proper permits.

In such instances, the authorities usually cite laws passed in 1960 by the Egyptian administration in the Gaza Strip which prohibit private construction without permission from the authorities. In fighting the orders in court, lawyers for the refugees have argued that the failure of the authorities to act against the alleged contraventions before now constitutes the granting of ownership rights to the residents. The petitioners also point to the 1907 Hague Convention requiring an occupying power to act in a manner consistent with the public welfare.

While remaining neutral in the question of ownership, UNRWA has contended that the demolition warnings are not consistent with assurances which the agency has been given repeatedly that no refugee family would be forced to move into one of the housing projects involuntarily and that no family's shelter in the camps should be demolished.

The refugees increasingly turn to UNRWA for help and support — particularly as economic conditions in the Gaza Strip deteriorate. One elderly man, threatened with the loss of his shelter in Jabalia, told a visiting UNRWA staff member: "Please don't let me find myself in a position where I feel obliged to take my family and go to squat in the UNRWA offices because we have no place to live." Another, younger refugee, recently laid off from his electrician's job in Israel, simply shook his head and repeated over and over: "What will happen to us?"



House demolitions at Beach Camp (UNRWA photo)



Israeli bulldozers were here — Jabalia Camp (UNRWA photo)

Bhopal gas victims struggle to rebuild their ravaged lives

By Chaitanya Kalbag
Reuters

BHOPAL, India — Hundreds of people stand outside the drab white bungalow, clutching yellow X-Ray folders and medical prescriptions in a line stretching down the driveway flanked by dry, leafless bushes.

A chorus of dry coughs punctuates the slow progress to the verandah of emaciated men, ragged children and ghost-like women covered head-to-toe in veils and black robes.

Half a kilometre to the east looms the reason for the hospital to this central Indian city — the pesticide factory owned by the Indian subsidiary of the U.S. Union Carbide company where a poison gas leak last December killed 2,500 people.

Opposite the factory sprawls the shantytown of Jaiprakash Nagar where more than 800 people died among the huts built with canvas and wood from packing cases. Dozens of huts whose owners have died or fled stand empty.

Nearly four months after the world's worst industrial disaster, the survivors are struggling to rebuild their lives, scarred by lethal methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas, that burst from a storage tank at the pesticide factory on Dec. 3.

Union Carbide Chairman Warren Anderson said earlier this month that sabotage could not be ruled out to the leak, which also injured 250,000 people. Two senior Indian scientists have rejected Mr. Anderson's remarks.

In Bhopal, capital of Madhya Pradesh state, the 30-bed government hospital where the gas victims trek every day for medicine, X-Rays and urine and blood tests has become the centre of their lives since it was set up on Jan. 13.

But there are always more patients than beds and they rest on

makeshift beds made of piles of red hospital blankets between the iron cots.

"Most of them stay for about two weeks and go away when they feel better," said Dr. Shrinath Aggarwal. "But they have to return when the effects of the medicine wear off."

Dr. M.M. Nanda, who is in charge of the hospital, said about 600 people were treated at its outpatient clinics every day.

"More than half of them are poison gas victims and they all complain of major respiratory problems," he told Reuters. "They cannot walk even 100 metres without running out of breath. We can only continue medication and hope they will improve."

Dr. Nanda said many survivors showed signs of severe bronchial pneumonia, their lungs seared by the poison gas, and most of them complained of weakness that did not let them do any work.

In the female ward a woman sat cross-legged, dressed in a white sari, her face drawn in agony as she was racked by a bout of coughing.

Bibi Jan, 30, said two of her five children died in the gas leak. "I have been in three hospitals since then and there is no improvement. I don't know who will look after my other children if I die," she said with tears in her eyes.

The gas acted more slowly on other victims.

In the next room a thin, dark boy lay fighting for breath as his parents stood by the bed, looking on anxiously.

Gopal Khushwaha, 14, said a month ago he suddenly developed severe lung pains, his eyes reddened, and he could not walk.

"Our lives have been destroyed by the gas," said his father Chhotelal.

The disaster also disrupted the lives of survivors who did not go to hospital.

In Jaiprakash Nagar's dusty, fly-infested lanes, several men sat gloomily on the doorsteps of their huts as women and children wandered listlessly under the fierce afternoon sun.

"I used to lift about 50 kilograms of luggage at the railway station before the gas leak," said porter Laili Khan, his cheeks covered with stubble. "Not now. So I sit at home, selling firewood."

Arvind Gupta, who has not been able to return to his job as a construction worker, said he sold ice on a nearby pavement.

"My 11-year-old daughter Manita was in hospital three times but she has only worsened. She is at home now and only God can save her," he said, pointing to a little girl who lay covered with a blanket in a small hut.

The Poison Gas Disaster Struggle Committee, which has been spearheading a campaign for better relief for the victims, reported in a recent survey that most families had incurred large debts after they paid for hospitalisation.

"Most of the victims were poor slum-dwellers who worked as porters or labourers," said committee member Dr. Anil Sadgopal.

"Now they have only the medicine queues to look forward to."

The doctors said the disaster has left behind deep-rooted psychological problems among the victims.

In a small, whitewashed room near the factory, a team of six psychiatrists from the north Indian city of Lucknow counselled a growing line of patients outside the rough wooden door.

Racial fears blamed for S. Africa bloodletting

By Arik Bachar
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa, as long as it keeps blacks and whites apart, faces the inevitability of continued violence based on fear, sociologists say.

"This country is suffering from a serious breakdown of communications. The situation is unpredictable if you're dealing with strangers on both sides," said a prominent sociologist.

Police shot dead 19 blacks last week because they were among thousands marching on the white town of Uitenhage, in Cape Province, the authorities said.

Professor Lawrence Schlemmer, head of the centre for applied social studies at Durban University, analysed the psychology of the apartheid system.

"We live in a very divided society," Prof. Schlemmer said. "The (black) people perceive the police not as doing a job but as part of the enemy."

"Given the fact that no channels and outlets are available for their political aspirations, confrontation with the system is inevitable as is the inevitability of state reaction."

Prof. Schlemmer said that in South Africa, contrary to other countries, confrontation between white policemen and black demonstrators often ended in violence because "here, they do not feel part of the same nation."

"In other countries police don't have the perception that demonstrators are actually out to kill them," he said.

For many whites, the policemen who fired on the blacks did just what was expected of them, sociologists say.

The National Party, which has ruled since 1948 and devised apartheid to ensure separation of the now 4.7 million whites and 22.6 million blacks, recently granted a minor parliamentary role to the Indian and mixed race coloured communities.

But sociologists say that so long as blacks' aspirations remain choked, more violence is a certainty.

"One cannot really expect the government to sit by and watch a whole lot of (black) people go on the march when you don't know where they'll end up or what they will do," Prof. Schlemmer said.

An elaborate security system has been set up in South Africa to monitor the movement of blacks,

who face prosecution if found without passes in white areas.

The blacks killed at Uitenhage were shot on the 25th anniversary of the killing by police of 69 blacks at Sharpeville, near Johannesburg.

As long as South Africa remains racially divided, with no communications between blacks and whites, there will be further violence, sociologists say.

Winnie Mandela, the wife of imprisoned black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, said recently that inherent white fear of blacks in South Africa was a central bar to a meaningful dialogue on ways for reform.

"The (Dutch-descended) Afrikaner will never negotiate with blacks because of his fear of being swamped by a different race," he said.



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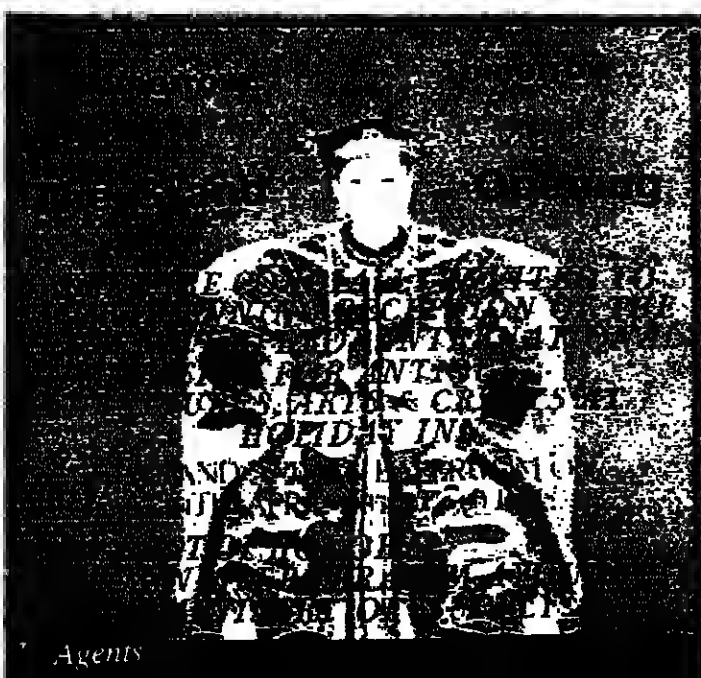
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Sweden storms into World Table Tennis Championships final

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — Sweden, roared on by 6,000 highly-excited spectators, beat Poland 5-3 to reach the final of the men's team event at the World Table Tennis Championships Monday.

Jan-Ove Waldner, still only 19, Erik Lindh and Mikael Appelgren had too much strength in depth for the Poles who relied too heavily on Andrzej Grubba. Now Sweden will play China, runaway 5-0 winners over Japan in the other semi-final, for the Swarthling Cup Tuesday.

Grubba did his best to turn the tide, beating both Appelgren and Waldner in three games after Leszek Kucharski had sprung a surprise in the opening Rubber by defeating Lindh 21-14, 21-16.

But it was Appelgren, the 'old war-horse' of the Swedish team at 23, who proved the strong man at the vital moments.

Despite his defeat by Grubba

early in the battle he came back strongly to beat Stefan Dryszel 15-21, 21-15, 21-11 to put Sweden 4-2 ahead.

Grubba then beat Waldner in an amazing match in which he won the first game after being 12-19 down, taking nine successive points to accompanying sighs and groans from the crowd.

But upstepped Appelgren, plagued by injury for much of the season, to beat Kucharski 21-16, 21-13 to put Sweden through to the final for the second successive championships.

China made the second semi-final look like a practice session. Jiang Jialiang, Chen Longcan and Chen Xinhua strolled through the

match, never allowing the Japanese to take a game.

Jiang and Chen Longcan hit winners, seemingly at will, while Chen Xinhua either chopped the ball ferociously in half or hammered devastating forehands, celebrating them all with the widest of smiles.

Sweden must hope to provide more suitable opposition and Waldner, in particular, has troubled the Chinese in the past. Whether he can worry all three of them is problematical.

China also battered their way into the women's team event final for the eighth successive time, beating the Netherlands 3-0 and, like their men, did not drop a single game.

North Korea, who beat South Korea 3-1 in the other semi-final, have a superb player in Li Bun Hui who won both her singles and the doubles with Cho Jong Hui. But despite her brilliance she may have to move into a higher gear if she is to trouble the Chinese women who have not lost a Rubber in the championships.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, captain of the Jordanian National Polo team receives trophy from Her Highness Princess Sarvath Tuesday (Petra photo)

Jordan beats Britain in polo match

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Tuesday beat Britain by six points to five in a polo match held at Zarqa. The Jordanian National Polo Team was led by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who skillfully scored two points for his team at the Royal Equestrian grounds.

Tuesday's match was the 24th international win for Jordan in polo. The British team arrived here Friday and held warm-up exercises over the past few days in preparation for the match.

At the end of the match, Her Highness Princess Sarvath presented the cup to Prince Hassan and token prizes to members of the visiting team.

The match was watched by senior army officers, British Ambassador to Jordan Arthur John Coles, British embassy staff and a large group of invited spectators.

RAC speedtest to be held on April 12

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Over 40 rallying enthusiasts have already registered their names as participants in a speedtest to be organised by the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) on Friday, April 12.

The speedtests, the third motor sporting event organised by the RAC this year, will take place within the club's premises, a spokeswoman for the club said Tuesday.

The speedtests are part of the qualifying rounds for the overall National Rally Championship of the year. Two other events, a speedtest and an actual rallying event, took place in February and March respectively.

Speedtests are mainly aimed at assessing the driver's skills in manoeuvring through limited access roads and the forthcoming event will be held at the RAC's driving school grounds where a maze of roads and crossroads exist.

Unlike rallying event, speedtests do not involve a co-driver. The April 12 event, sponsored by the Al Nadwa International Trading Company, also includes prizes for cars which excel in their performances. These prizes are awarded to the respective manufacturers.

Most of the seasoned rallying drivers in Jordan are taking part in the event, which is phased into a morning stage and an afternoon stage. The driver who will score the best timing in both stages wins the prize. Separate prizes will be

awarded to male and female winners.

Those who fail to win prizes in the race have a consolation; they would be awarded qualifying points in the race of the year's National Rally Championship.

This year's National Rally Championship started off with the February speedtest and the first rallying event outside the RAC premises was held on March 15.

The Rothmans Jerash Rally, as the event was named after the British cigarette manufacturers Rothmans of Pallmall who are sponsoring this year's rallying events in Jordan, involved 220 kilometres of racing, including stages through the tough mountainside routes from Amman to the ancient Roman city of Jerash in the north.

Nabil Dirani, driving a Nissan RS 240, was adjudged winner of the Rothmans Jerash Rally in which 24 vehicles ranging from mini cars to large jeeps took part.

The national championship includes two other rallying events. The first, the Rothmans Desert Castles Rally, is scheduled to be held next month. The second event in the national championship will be held in November.

Apart from the national championship, the RAC and Rothmans are also organising the Jordan leg of the 1985 Middle East Rally Championship. The event, scheduled to be held in July, will bring together veteran drivers from the Arab Gulf countries and possibly Cyprus.

Oman withdraws from international matches

MUSCAT (R) — Oman has withdrawn from all international soccer matches until March 1986 because of its team's poor performance in tournaments last year, football association officials said Tuesday.

The association informed FIFA, soccer's governing body, of the decision earlier this year and paid the statutory penalty of 10,000 Swiss francs (\$3,900), they said.

Oman's withdrawal means it

ceded World Cup qualifying matches last month against Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Oman will also miss the Youth World Cup.

The association dismissed the national team and its Brazilian coaches last November.

New Brazilian coaches, led by Antonio Clemente, have been recruited and the association is reorganising the national league into new regional teams to encourage young talent.

Juantorena quits sports job

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's double Olympic gold medalist Alberto Juantorena, who recently announced his retirement, was Monday named vice-president of Cuba's State Sports Institute.

Juantorena, 34, won gold medals in the 400 and 800 metres at the 1976 Montreal Olympics but his career afterwards was hampered by a succession of injuries.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.2110/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3710/20	Canadian dollars
	3.1400/20	West German marks
	3.5400/30	Dutch guilders
	2.6550/80	Swiss francs
	63.08/13	Belgian francs
	9.5700/5900	French francs
	1996/1999	Italian lire
	253.70/90	Japanese yen
	9.0600/0700	Swedish crowns
	9.0300/0400	Norwegian crowns
	11.2150/2250	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	319.00/320.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed firm with the FTSE 100 share index at 1430 GMT up 7.3 at 1,285.6. But turnover was light ahead of the Easter week-end, dealers said.

ICI firmed 10p to 76p, B.P. gained 12p to 550, Jaguar rose 3p to 303 and Bat Industries added 6p to 336. Bat said it is looking for a buyer for its packaging and printing businesses in Europe and North America.

Government bonds lost up to 1/4 point in lacklustre trading while North Americans were marginally firmer.

Sedgwick group eased 11p to 373 on profit-taking, having touched 398 following news Transamerica Corp has reached agreement to acquire 39 per cent of its shares. Sedgwick was suspended Tuesday morning at 384p awaiting an announcement.

Stewart Wrightson declined 13p to 588 after Mercury Securities sold its 29.3 per cent holding in the company. Mercury firmed 20p to 428.

Allied Textiles jumped 137p to 570 following the acquisition of 13.3 per cent of its shares by London and Midland Industrials which intends to make an offer for the company.

Gold shares were easier but off their lows.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WED. APRIL 3, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: After some upsets and disturbing conditions in the morning, which you should take in stride, you find that latter part of the day is beautiful for social or romantic interests.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle different kinds of problematical affairs in the morning, and then you have fine opportunities to get ahead later.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Early you may feel frustrated and want to break up existing routines, but the mood soon passes and you get much done.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may not be satisfied with the conditions at home early, but if you study them carefully, you find they are not so bad.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Some problematical affair at work could be upsetting if you permit, but later the situation eases up and all is well.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Economize in the morning, instead of trying to spend more than you can afford. Tonight you get the right information you need.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You feel irritated in the morning, so study into better ways of advancing in your career and later can make fine progress.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Morning requires you to think over carefully how best to handle some problem so that you can solve it in the evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Hang on to whatever money you possess and plan to add to it conservatively with the aid of a good friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may find that your judgment is not very good in the morning, so postpone making important decisions until later.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Don't permit some private anxiety to get you off base, but study the matter well and solve it wisely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Steer clear of a newcomer who likes to waste your time in the morning and later you can handle business affairs well.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Steer clear of an argument with a bigwig and you soon can come to a fine agreement with associates.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be restless and apt to change views radically from time to time. Make sure that as fine an education as possible will be provided and the importance of handling details will be learned, and give a course in psychology in order to understand others.

World Bank stresses private sector role in Third World

In a February speech to business executives of the Institute of Directors in London, World Bank President A.W. Clausen discussed "Promoting the Private Sector in Developing Countries: A Multilateral Approach." He noted that the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) see themselves as partners with the private sector in the economic development of the Third World and are determined to strengthen that partnership. The following is excerpted from his remarks and was published in the March issue of "The Bank's World".

LONDON (USIA) — It is strange that the role of the private sector in development is probably the least discussed of all major development issues. It is particularly strange in light of the fact that the private sector generates almost three-quarters of the gross domestic product of the developing countries.

Over the last two to three decades, the thrust of the development effort has been directed toward public sector activities. In their dialogue with governments, multilateral and bilateral aid organizations have been less concerned with promoting private sector growth than with assisting the development of an effective public sector.

That emphasis, in my view, is misplaced: aid agencies ought to be taking, and must take, a more balanced approach.

Similarly, in the international fora where North-South issues have long been debated, discussion of the private sector has tended to carry heavy ideological overtones and to concentrate narrowly on the behaviour of multinational corporations and foreign investors. That emphasis too is misplaced.

Foreign investment is critically important to the developing nations, and should be encouraged, not discouraged, by those whose interests it can clearly serve.

Securing sustained economic growth in the developing countries calls for the fullest deployment by those countries of all available resources. In that endeavour, the relationship between government and private enterprise has never been easy. Governments worry that private sector investment policies distort national economic development objectives.

Meanwhile, the private sector sees government policies distorting the market and jeopardising the incentives for entrepreneurship.

With domestic and external resources currently so constrained, the pursuit of efficiency and domestic resource mobilisation in the developing countries is more critical for them than ever. That is why there is such an urgent need to reduce, if not finally eliminate, the chronic lack of mutual confidence between developing country governments and business, and to expand and release the energies of the private sector.

Its participation in the development process is not an option; it is an essential.

There is evidence enough that the most rapid economic growth in the developing world has been achieved where governments have recognised the value of private enterprise; that it can, for example, contribute to efficient industrialisation by mobilising

private savings, harnessing entrepreneurship, diffusing economic power, widening consumer choice and stimulating competition.

Of course, the public sector also has a crucial role to play. It must provide the setting and the infrastructure within which entrepreneurship can thrive. And the experience of development points clearly to the need for a pragmatic balance between the two sectors.

Having laboured in the vineyard of private enterprise for more than 30 years, I have absolutely no doubt about the validity of that assertion.

So, I have not come here to press a case against public ownership. I am here to say that government should not stifle freedom of enterprise. I should vigorously encourage it.

That means that, under certain circumstances, governments should consider travelling the decentralisation route. Few countries, industrial or developing, have so far taken that route, and therefore experiences to draw upon are limited.

Privatisation is, however, a path to be trodden with caution in the developing countries. Not surprisingly, there is little willingness or capacity in the private sector to take over bankrupt public enterprises in need of substantial rehabilitation. And usually, as a result of overregulation of financial markets, there is no organised equity market to facilitate the establishment of a fair price. But this does not imply that existing public sector entities should be maintained at all costs.

The strengthening of the private sector should, among other benefits, make decentralisation more viable.

The World Bank and the IFC can help strengthen the private sector in the developing nations by helping governments to create an environment in which private enterprise can flourish.

The role of governments is equally clear: They should put in place the ground rules establishing the framework in which private enterprise can operate effectively and respond to the needs of society. And I mean effective in the sense of generating high returns for both the country and the investors.

I would attribute the following characteristics to such a framework:

— Adequate provision of physical infrastructure, such as roads, ports, power.

— The minimising of market distortions and rigidities so that the prices of capital, labour, foreign exchange and products reflect their relative scarcity.

— Assured access to inputs and markets.

— Relatively unrestricted entry



A.W. Clausen

into a particular industry.

The extension of considerable autonomy to entrepreneurs in their investment and managerial decisions.

Respect for contractual obligations, and the protection by law of property rights, including intellectual property.

Consistent and uniform application of government policies, ensuring fair and equal treatment among sectors and firms, including non-discrimination between foreign and nationally-owned enterprises, and the right of foreign investors to remit capital and earnings.

Adherence to agreements ensuring independent arbitration of investment disputes and the provision of insurance cover against political risks.

The bank and IFC can help at two levels.

The bank can provide advice and a measure of finance in support of a government's efforts to create the conditions conducive to productive private sector activity.

The IFC, also with its advice and a measure of finance, can help the entrepreneur turn his creativity and drive to good account in circumstances where, without IFC support, that would not happen. Thus, they have essentially catalytic roles to play.

I do not want to leave you with the impression that we believe direct foreign private investment is some kind of panacea. It is not.

Attractive as some of the characteristics of this type of capital are, there are limits to what it can do. It cannot be used flexibly to finance the broad needs of development. It tends to concentrate in the few sectors of interest to multinational corporations, and in a small number of host countries. Direct foreign investment must always, therefore, be seen as complementary to other sources of development finance.

It can, marginally, substitute for borrowing, but it should not be viewed as a means to make up for the present disruption in commercial lending. It should be noted that factors inhibiting commercial lending usually inhibit direct investments too.

Foreign investor hesitancy is matched in many developing countries by host country fears of foreign domination and control. This has led to restrictions which have unintentionally also affected the flow of foreign portfolio investment.

Philadelphia Insurance Co. boasts winning big tenders

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

The 4th annual report of the Philadelphia Insurance Company boasted winning major insurance tenders for 1985, the most important of which covered imports by the government and the Ministry of Supply as well as government vehicles.

The company's report as of Dec. 31, 1984 showed that the marine division was the most successful during 1984 as it seized 53 per cent of the total operational income which amounted to JD 540,897. The vehicles division captured 35 per cent of the total, while fire and general accidents divisions took the remaining 12 per cent.

The report revealed that premiums realised by the marine division amounted to JD 285,723 (JD 263,973 in 1983) but that the division's net profit stood at JD 35,588 (JD 10,234) after taking into consideration JD 90,678 (JD 275,614) paid in compensation as well as various reserve and commission accounts relating mainly to the reinsurance part of the operations.

The vehicles division had a very negative impact on the company's 1984 performance as premiums received fell slightly to JD,

172,635 while compensations paid rose by JD 32,813 to JD 129,316. Noting that reinsurance was not covering the risk in this field, and due to reserves, commissions, high expenses and administrative costs, the result of the vehicles division was a net loss of JD 43,981 compared to a profit of JD 10,004 in 1983.

The general accidents and fire divisions attracted JD 64,229 in premiums but released JD 12,657 in compensations leading to a JD 8,536 profit — net of reserves, reinsurance and other costs and expenses. The net profit at the end of 1983 was JD 7,788.

Overseas agencies collected JD 18,309 in premiums and disbursed JD 0,714 in compensation, but due to various allocations the net result carried to the profit and loss account was a profit of JD 19,476. In 1984 overseas agencies contributed a profit of JD 31,282 accounting for JD 46,470 in pre-

miums and JD 18,140 in compensation.

In addition to the aforementioned profits, the company earned JD 32,255 in bank interest and JD 11,079 in dividends from shares. However, due to the fall to share prices the company opted to single out the dividends as a reserve account leaving a net overall profit of JD 35,817 (JD 43,400 in 1983) after deducting small amounts for depreciation and bad debts.

Major figures that appeared in the company's balance sheet included cash at hand and at banks for JD 352,513 (JD 241,636 in 1983), receivables for JD 199,698 (JD 270,481) and long term investments required by law (to the order of the minister of industry and trade) for JD 313,045 (JD 178,174). The investments portfolio comprised JD 141,295 in shares of 13 companies calculated at cost.

On the liability side major items include JD 129,045 (JD 2,744) being balance owed to reinsurance firms and reserves for JD 187,786 (JD 131,053) in addition to the paid-up capital of JD 430,000 representing 75 per cent of the authorised capital registered at JD 600,000 with the difference not yet officially called for to be paid.

U.S. exports to USSR hit record

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet trade figures released Tuesday showed that imports from the United States jumped 40 per cent last year to reach a record high as more American grain was brought in to cover domestic crop shortfalls.

American exports to the Soviet Union in 1984 totalled 2.83 billion rubles (about \$3.27 billion), up from 1.57 billion (\$1.81 billion) in 1983.

U.S. imports of Soviet goods fell by around 10 per cent to 305 million rubles (\$352 million).

The statistics, published in the monthly magazine Vneshehnaya Torgovlya (Foreign Trade), showed that the United States has overtaken France, Finland and Japan to become second after West Germany in the list of Moscow's non-communist suppliers.

Western embassy analysts of Soviet trade said the bulk of the increase was due to purchases of American grain in a year when Moscow's harvest fell far short of targets.

Soviet grain production figures have been an official secret since the disastrous harvest of 1981. U.S. Department of Agriculture experts estimated last year's crop at 170 million tonnes, 70 million below target.

The previous record figure for U.S. exports to Moscow was 2.48 billion rubles (\$2.87 billion) in 1979, the climax of the years of détente.

Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and President Jimmy Carter's subsequent grain embargo halved this figure in 1980 and a recovery has been held back by U.S. government limits on high-technology sales to Moscow.

Some restrictions have now been eased and the U.S.-Soviet commercial commission, chaired by Soviet Foreign Trade Minister Nikolai Patolichev and U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige is to hold its first meeting since 1978 in Moscow next month.

Incomplete figures last month showed Soviet trade with the West rose by 6.5 per cent in 1984, almost doubling Moscow's surplus to 1.77 billion rubles (\$2 billion).

Tuesday's figures showed this was achieved largely by trimming imports, including those from Japan and Finland, and a general expansion in exports, notably to West Germany and the Netherlands.

A brief official commentary on the figures said oil, gas and electric power exports made up 54.4 per cent of Soviet exports, with raw materials adding another 10 per cent.

The gradual improvement in relations between Moscow and Peking was reflected in a continued increase in trade between

them. Turnover soared from 223 million rubles (\$257 million) in 1983 to 977 million (\$1.12 billion) in 1984.

Soviet exports to Nicaragua, recipient of oil and weaponry as well as political support from the Kremlin, more than tripled in 1984 to 137.6 million rubles (\$154 million).

A 25 per cent increase in exports to Ethiopia reflected vehicles and other supplies sent to help fight famine there.

Moscow's move from strict neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war towards support for Baghdad also found its echo in trade. Whereas Soviet exports to both countries and imports from Iran continued to fall, imports from Iraq almost doubled.

Western embassy specialists think Moscow is accepting oil from Iraq and Gulf countries friendly to Baghdad in payment for arms shipments. This oil is passed on by Moscow direct to its own customers, including India and Eastern Europe.

Dollar recovery continues

LONDON (R) — The dollar maintained its recovery on foreign exchange markets Tuesday to claw back more of the ground it lost in its steep decline at the end of last month.

Traders said they saw the comeback as a correction to the dollar's recent steep fall, which was triggered by worries over the U.S. banking system and the strength of America's economic growth. Some speculators were having to buy dollars to cover selling commitments made last week.

Having closed at 3.1215 marks in London Monday night, the dollar made steady progress in New York and the Far East and touched 3.1640 at one stage in Europe Tuesday before settling back to 3.1490 in early afternoon trading.

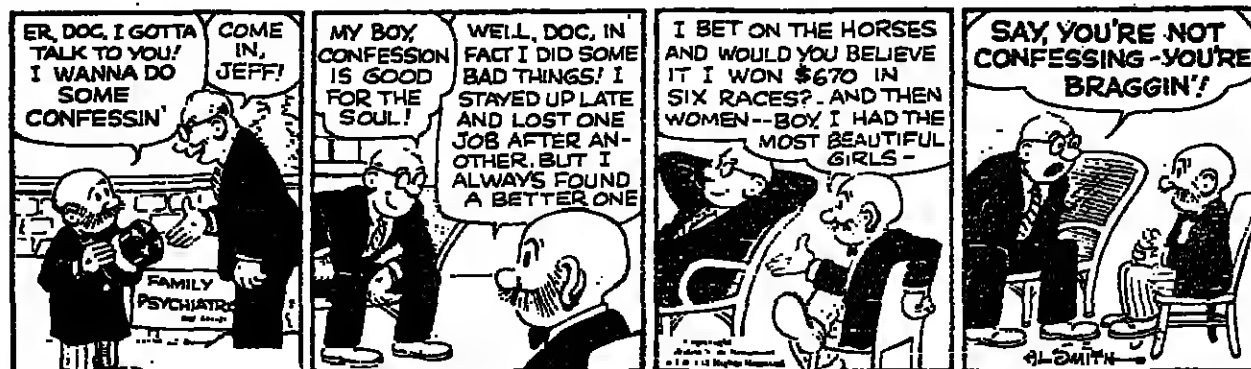
It also rose to 2.6670 Swiss francs from 2.6195 in London Monday while sterling fell to \$1.2097 from \$1.2222.

The dollar has now recovered more than 10 pence from the four-month low of 3.0350 marks touched in the Far East Monday.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

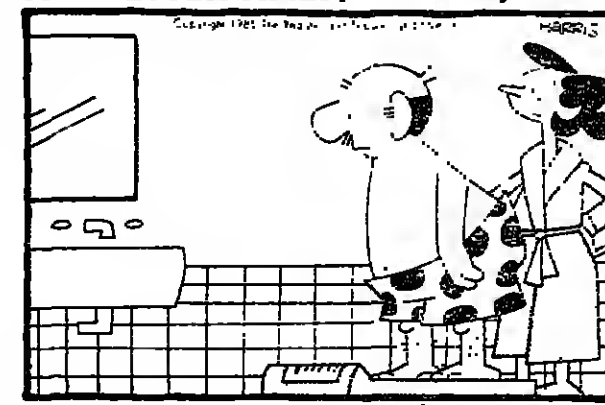


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"According to the Farmer's Almanac, gravity is stronger in this part of the country!"

JUMBLE.

that SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KIHCC

FYFAT

TICCAR

LARBUT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "KIHCC FYFAT TICCAR LARBUT"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BATHE ENACT KDSHER ARCAOE

Answer: What a tasteful necktie should be SEEN BUT NOT HEARD

THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN

1 Large desert

2 Gnatcatcher

3 Dr. letter

4 Deco

5 Animal food

6 Point in orbit

7 Planted

8 Sophia's three

9 Summer Fr.

10 "It is with nibble tent."

11 Shady recess

12 Electrical unit

13 River duck

14 Protection

15 Dried grass

16 Sly

17 Circular

18 Existence

19 Cartographer's work

20 Earthenware

21 Paper pack

22 Some horses

23 Xavier of music

24 Eastern university

25 Asbestos

26 Cockade

27 Sugar apple

28 Walk through

29 Smelling product

30 Swiss river

31 Substance

32 Br. composer

33 "The Man"

34 Concerning

35 FDR program

36 Norse goddess

37 Smelling product

38 Swiss river

U.S. receives Gorbachev's reply on summit invitation

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan was quoted here Tuesday as saying Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had responded to his invitation to hold a summit meeting in Washington.

Mr. Reagan told the Washington Post in an interview that he had received a message from Mr. Gorbachev and he was hopeful about a summit meeting. But he declined to say what the Soviet leader had said, nor when the reply was received.

The Post, however, quoted unidentified administration officials as saying Mr. Gorbachev sent a letter to Mr. Reagan last week which endorsed "the idea of a summit," but without specifying a time or a place.

A White House spokesman confirmed that a response had been received, but refused to give details.

Mr. Reagan, the only U.S. president in 50 years not to have met his Soviet counterpart, extended his invitation to Mr. Gorbachev in a letter delivered by Vice President George Bush at the funeral last month of Mr. Gorbachev's predecessor, Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr. Reagan told the Post he was even more eager to meet Mr. Gorbachev since the killing in East Germany last week of U.S. army Major Arthur Nicholson, shot by a Soviet guard.

"This was murder, a cold-blooded murder," he said. "It reflects on the difference between the two societies, one that has no regard for human life and one like our own that thinks it's the most important thing."

"And yes, I want a meeting

even more so, to sit down and look someone in the eye and talk to him about what we could do to make sure nothing of this kind happens again," he said.

"An unidentified administration official quoted by the Post said Maj. Nicholson's killing had clouded summit arrangements but that Washington was expecting a more detailed reply in the near future."

On other matters in the wide-ranging interview, Mr. Reagan said the U.S.-Soviet negotiations in Geneva on offensive weapons were "going forward" despite Soviet objections to his emphasis on missile defense in his Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), popularly known as Star Wars.

Mr. Reagan reiterated his position that the SDI was "purely research ... and the plain truth of the matter is (the Soviet Union) has been doing the same kind of research in the same areas and started it before we did."

Turning to U.S. relations with Nicaragua, he said he believed there were more Nicaraguans opposed to the leftist Sandinist government now than "actually" fought in the revolution against (Anastasio) Somoza, who was overthrown by the Sandinists in 1979.

Washington supports Nicaraguan rebels, called "Contras," who are fighting to oust the Sandinist government.

On trade relations with Japan,

Mr. Reagan expressed confidence that Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone would follow through on his commitment to open Japan's markets to American products.

He said he remained opposed to protectionist legislation, under consideration by Congress, seeking to cut the U.S. trade deficit with Japan, which reached \$36.8 billion in 1984.

Senate cuts MX budget

Meanwhile a Senate Armed Services Subcommittee has voted to cut President Reagan's request for 48 more MX nuclear missiles in 1986 by more than half, according to the Washington Post.

Quoting unidentified congressional sources, the Post said Tuesday the Strategic and Theatre Nuclear Forces Subcommittee Monday voted to recommend authorization for just 21 of the 48 land-based, multi-warhead missiles that Mr. Reagan wants to begin building next year.

Mr. Reagan last week won a battle with Congress for approval of 21 missiles costing \$1.5 billion — second stage of his MX programme which he says is necessary for a strong U.S. bargaining position at the Geneva arms control talks.

Congress narrowly approved construction of the 21 strategic nuclear weapons but many opponents of the weapon — who were persuaded to vote in favour last week by the president's arms control argument — said Reagan would face a much tougher battle for approval of the additional 48 missiles.



STRIKE ANNOUNCEMENT: An unidentified Sudanese doctor (left) tells his colleagues on Monday that unions of engineers, lawyers, judges, university professors and others have agreed with the doctors' union to hold a one-day general strike of professionals on Wednesday (AP wirephoto).

Chlorine spills from Bhopal plant

NEW DELHI (R) — Liquid chlorine has spilled from the pesticides factory in Bhopal in central India where 2,500 people were killed in last December's poison gas disaster, a spokesman for the Indian owners said Tuesday.

Indian newspapers reported earlier that at least three people were injured by fresh gas leaks at the plant and that hundreds of others living in a shanty-town nearby fled in panic.

The factory, owned by the Indian offshoot of the U.S. Union Carbide Company, was the centre of the world's worst industrial disaster on record on Dec. 3 when methyl isocyanate gas burst from the plant and swept through the city. About 125,000 people were injured.

Asked for his reaction to the newspaper reports, Union Carbide India Ltd's Vice-President K. Kamdar said in Bombay that poisonous liquid chlorine had spilled while it was being transferred

from the factory into tankers on Thursday night.

"It was a minor matter. No one was affected and no one was hospitalized," Mr. Kamdar told Reuters.

The Indian Express newspaper reported that a factory spokesman in Bhopal said that fresh leaks of what he said was "chlorine" happened last Thursday night and early Monday.

The plant spokesman described the leaks as "minor" and said they were brought under control with the use of water sprayed onto the leaking chemical.

The incidents occurred while about 100 tonnes of the substance were being transferred to tankers to be taken away and sold, he was quoted as saying.

The Indian Express quoted a report made by railwaymen working near the plant last Thursday as saying their eyes started burning and they experienced a choking sensation. After 30 minutes

they felt better, the paper said.

The Times of India newspaper said four people were affected by the new leaks and they were treated at a clinic in the plant.

A fifth man, employed by the railways, had to leave his post nearby to escape irritation to his eyes, the Times of India said.

Mr. Kamdar said he was waiting for details of how much liquid chlorine spilled out and how much still remained at the plant.

Some toxic material, including caustic lye, was still stored there and would soon be removed, he added.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said a leak occurred early Tuesday at a state-owned sulphuric acid plant in north-eastern Bombay.

Two workers were treated at the firm's dispensary after the Bombay incident, but no deaths were reported. Investigators had yet to discover the cause of the incident, PTI said.

Baby killed in South African bomb attack

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa (R) — A one-year-old black baby was killed when a petrol bomb was set on fire by a petrol bomb in rioting overnight in South Africa's eastern province, police said Tuesday.

A spokesman said riot police fired shotguns, rubber bullets and tear gas as crowds stoned police and army vehicles in black townships near four towns. Three policemen and three soldiers were injured by stones.

On Sunday, troops were called in to help police control rioting. Police said riots broke out in the eastern Cape province Monday night and continued until dawn.

Police said it was not known if the child killed Monday night was a boy or a girl. A four-year-old boy was killed in a petrol bomb attack in the area last weekend.

A police officer whose patrol shot dead 19 blacks in eastern Cape province rioting last month Monday contradicted a government account of the shooting, saying he saw only one woman throw a stone before he gave the order to fire.

In Moscow, the Soviet daily Selskaya Zhizn (rural life) Tuesday alleged that Israel and South Africa were developing chemical weapons that would kill only non-whites.

Their joint effort to develop biological (ethnic) weapons meant to kill only non-whites is the most striking and inconceivable gruesome embodiment of the "racist international cooperation between Tel Aviv and Pretoria," the daily said.

It alleged that a special genetic research committee had been set up in South Africa that maintained close contacts with similar centres in Israel and whose prime task was military research.

A top-secret laboratory in the Transvaal was producing "selective-action deadly germs."

"The viruses bred there have already been tested on political prisoners, including Africans and Arabs, under an Israeli-South African joint programme," the newspaper said.

'Singing nun' commits suicide

WAVRE, Belgium (R) — Former Dominican Sister Jeanne Deckers, who made headlines in the 1960s as the "singing nun", was found dead at her home here. Police said she had committed suicide. Deckers, 52, came up with a string of hits in the 1960s, the most famous of which, Dominique, sold millions of copies worldwide and went to number one in the U.S. charts in 1963. The up-tempo ballad, sung soprano to the accompaniment of a single acoustic guitar, contrasted strongly with the harsher tones of the Rolling Stones and Beatles who in the same year were beginning their long dominance of the popular music scene. Deckers, known as "sister smile" in the French-speaking world, left the Dominican order after seven years in 1966, but continued to retain strong links with the Catholic Church. Friends said Deckers, who was almost penniless when she died, had been upset when government spending cuts forced the closure of a children's home with which she had been involved.

Officials want South Africa barred from beauty pageant

MIAMI (R) — Miami city officials and an anti-apartheid group are demanding that Miss South Africa be barred from the Miss Universe beauty pageant here in July. H.T. Smith, head of the Miami chapter of the Coalition for a Free South Africa, said his group would mount protests to disrupt the contest if the South African beauty queen were allowed to participate. "We feel that we should not be helping to glamourise apartheid," Mr. Smith said. "Nor should we be subsidising South Africa by spending tax dollars to underwrite their participation." Miami officials, fearing that demonstrations could tarnish the image of the money-making event, are also asking Miss South Africa to stay home. Assistant City Manager, Cesar Odio has sent a letter to Miss Universe Pageant officials, asking that Miss South Africa be excluded. The pageant, which will involve contestants from more than 75 countries, is scheduled for mid-July.

Police recover Ned Kelly's pistol

BRISBANE (R) — A revolver which once belonged to Australia's legendary bushranger, Ned Kelly, was recovered Tuesday by police more than nine years after it was stolen. The weapon, a .31 calibre Colt worth about 20,000 Australian dollars (\$13,500), was taken in December 1975 from a museum in the old Melbourne jail where Kelly died on the gallows for murder in 1880. Police said detectives found the revolver during a drugs raid on a house at Tewanin, near Brisbane. Kelly, wearing a suit of heavy home-made armour, carried the gun when the Kelly gang lost its last battle against police in a shoot-out at the small town of Glenrowan in Victoria in 1880. He was captured after being wounded by police fire in his unprotected legs.

Koko gets a new cat

WOODSIDE, California (AP) — Koko, the gorilla who communicates with sign language and mourned when her pet kitten was killed, has a new kitty and a new problem — gorilla rivalry. Koko, star of the Gorilla Foundation in this rustic community about 20 miles south of San Francisco, adopted the first kitten after asking for a cat for Christmas in 1983. Koko named it "All-ball" in American sign language, developed for the deaf. Koko cried when All-ball died in a traffic accident shortly before last Christmas, and the foundation decided to try to replace the kitten. But Koko was very specific — the cat had to be a male, an unusual breed with no tail. It took some time to find one, Colleen Corey, an administrative and research assistant at the foundation, said Monday. Finally, an orange male was presented to Koko last month. "They're getting along fine," said Ms. Corey. "It's difficult to replace an animal you love with another. She was disappointed that she wasn't able to pick a kitten. She wanted to pick her own." The new pet is not named as yet. The only problem comes from Michael, the centre's male "talking" gorilla. "Our male gorilla thinks that it's his kitten," said Ms. Corey. However, "they both play with the kitten, and so far there have been no disputes."

U.S. team urges research on new supersonic plane

WASHINGTON (R) — A White House advisory committee has recommended renewed research into possible development of a U.S. supersonic transport which might compete with the British-French Concorde by the year 2000.

"Potential advances in technology could make virtually all of today's operational civil and military aircraft obsolete before the end of the century," presidential science adviser George Keyworth said in releasing the committee report.

Mr. Keyworth said the Reagan administration was not getting into the business of building a new supersonic transport, but the committee of government, industry and private experts urged that basic research by both government and industry be directed toward development of three types of revolutionary aircraft:

— A supersonic transport which might be three times as fuel-efficient as the British and French Concorde and carry 600 passengers at speeds of 3,200 kilometers per hour.

— Sleek planes that could take off and land on conventional runways, manoeuvre at the fringe of the atmosphere and, when required, fly in and out of space orbit.

— A variety of sub-supersonic aircraft with increased fuel efficiency, access to smaller airports, quieter operation and greater economy for both military and commercial use.

Mr. Keyworth said in a National Press Club speech that the report

was not calling for more government funds in developing such aircraft, but urged both the Defense Department and industry to concentrate basic research in those three areas.

"Although this administration has made no commitment to a supersonic transport, we are laying the groundwork ... in the fundamental technologies essential for any future efforts in supersonic flight," he said.

Research to date indicates that airflow control, variable-cycle engine efficiency and lightweight building materials could produce a plane three times more efficient than the Concorde, the 16-member committee said in its report.

U.S. firms and the American government spent tens of millions of dollars in the 1960s and 70s on research into a supersonic transport, but dropped out of the race while France, Britain and the Soviet Union built such needled-nosed craft.

On any breakthrough in access to space, Mr. Keyworth said that hydrogen-fuelled "scram-jet" engines held great promise in producing substantially-improved propulsion over today's rocket technology.

The committee formed by the White House advisory office on science and technology was headed by John Steiner, a retired vice-president of the Boeing.

Mr. Keyworth said the report had been given to President Reagan and he felt that its thrust had the president's full support.

Australia launches anti-drug campaign

CANBERRA (R) — Australia Tuesday launched a major new campaign against its mounting narcotics problem following a passionate speech by Prime Minister Bob Hawke, whose daughter was a heroin addict.

A national conference, which included the premiers of all the country's states, backed a government package of anti-drug measures which will cost nearly \$50 million.

Law enforcement will be strengthened and anti-drug education, research, treatment and rehabilitation will be improved, according to a communiqué.

It was agreed in principle that tougher laws should be introduced to cover confiscation of convicted drug dealers' assets, to grant phone tap powers in drug-related cases and to create a new offence for sending illegal drugs by post.

Mr. Hawke, who promised to hold a drug conference in the run-up to last December's general elections, said it marked Australia's first co-ordinated approach to the fight against illegal drugs.

"The health and future well-being of our society depends on our willingness and our determination to make a concerted effort to succeed in this most vital national endeavour," Mr. Hawke said.

Wu: China seeks better ties with India

BEIJING (AP) — China is sincere in seeking improved relations with India, Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian told a banquet on the 35th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the world's most populous countries.

Despite cordialities expressed here and in New Delhi, there has been no substantive progress in improving relations, diplomatic

sources said here Tuesday.

Five rounds of talks on a border dispute — which led to war in 1962 — dealt only with preliminaries and no date has been set for this year's scheduled sixth round.

Sino-Indian trade plummeted by nearly 50 per cent last year to \$60 million, and 1985 volume

remains sluggish despite a long-term trade agreement signed last August.

At a banquet hosted by Indian ambassador Palat Sankar Menon, Foreign Minister Wu said China hoped to develop relations with India and work to solve problems, the official New China News Agency reported.

Argentina marks Falkland Islands invasion anniversary

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina Tuesday marked the third anniversary of its abortive occupation of the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands, with the year-long court martial of 16 top officers over the defeat still making only slow progress.

President Raul Alfonsín, his cabinet and senior armed forces officers planned to attend a mass at the Stella Maris Military Chapel for the more than 1,000 Argentines who died in the conflict with Britain.

Various veteran groups and political parties planned scattered demonstrations. Former President Leopoldo Galtieri, who led the military junta that ordered the April 2, 1982 invasion, was invited to one of them but he is under arrest.

For the past year Argentina's Supreme Military Tribunal has made slow progress in the court martial of officers charged over the defeat and none have yet been convicted.

Like Gen. Galtieri, the two other top military officers, Navy

Commander Jorge Anaya and former Air Force Commander Basilio Lami Dozo, are under arrest.

The Falklands trials were halted late last year when the military tribunal resigned, claiming it did not have the full support of Mr. Alfonsín's government. A new court in March began calling the 16 officers to expand their previous testimony.

Buenos Aires claims the islands, located deep in the South Atlantic off Argentina's coast, but they have been under British administration for most of the last 150 years.

Argentine troops occupied the Falklands for just over two months in 1982 before being defeated by a British task force.

The two countries still have not re-established relations and the only serious attempt to begin talks founded last July when Argentina refused to attend meetings that excluded the transfer of sovereignty as a subject for negotiation.

Duarte sees poll as vote of confidence

SAN SALVADOR (Agencies) — President Jose Napoleon Duarte has claimed victory in El Salvador's legislative elections and said they were a defeat for leftist rebels and his right-wing political opponents.

Official results of Sunday's polls will not be known until later this week, possibly only at the weekend.

Mr. Duarte's Christian Democratic Party said its count of 80 per cent of the vote showed it had taken 53.9 per cent compared with 37.4 per cent captured by a coalition of the country's two biggest right-wing parties.

"I believe this is a vote of confidence by the Salvadorean people for the efforts we are making to achieve peace and the reactivation of the economy," Mr. Duarte told reporters.

Leaders of the two rightist parties, the National Conciliation and Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), have not released their counts and declined to comment on Mr. Duarte's victory claim.

A win for Mr. Duarte would give his moderate party control of the 60-seat National Assembly, where it held 24 seats, and strong representation in the 262 towns where mayors were also up for election.

Mr. Duarte, El Salvador's first freely-elected president in 50

years, sought a majority in parliament so he could introduce social, political and economic reforms previously blocked by the right-wing opposition.

Such reforms are widely regarded as the only way of ending El Salvador's bitter five-year-old civil war between the left-wing guerrillas and the U.S.-backed government.

Mr. Duarte said the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front rebels launched 17 attacks on Sunday in an attempt to disrupt the elections. The biggest attack was in San Fernando, 70 kilometres north of the capital, where fighting lasted nearly five hours.

"The people defeated the left which carried out a total campaign against the Christian Democrats ... They defeated the coalition of the right and Mr. D'Aubuisson who conducted a campaign of disrespect and insults to the president," Mr. Duarte said.

ARENA head Roberto D'Aubuisson was Mr. Duarte's rival in presidential elections last year and has been accused by U.S. officials of being linked with El Salvador's notorious death squads.

Meanwhile a team of U.S. observers at El Salvador's parliamentary elections concluded unanimously Monday that the vot-

ing was "free, open and fair" and signaled the democratic process has taken hold in the violence-plagued Central American nation.

"The delegation notes that the Salvadoran military took obvious pains to remain impartial in the contest," the eight-member team said in a joint statement.

"Disagreements at the polls were, for the most part, inconsequential, and generally settled on the spot," the statement said. "These disputes centred on mechanics and procedures and we saw no evidence of intimidation or coercion that would raise a question of the fundamental fairness of the vote."

The report said that while guerrilla attacks and intimidation prevented voting in 42 Salvadoran municipalities in presidential elections a year ago, that number was reduced to just 19 this time.

"The election itself, then, must be hailed as a free, open and fair contest, and we expect all parties to respect the results," the delegation said.

"Our delegation unanimously agreed that this election could be described as routine even by the historical standards of elections in the United States," the report said. "This speaks volumes of how successfully the recently planted democratic institutions in El Salvador have taken root."

Thousands attend funeral of Chilean murder victims

SANTIAGO (R) — Thousands of people carrying Communist banners and chanting leftist slogans have joined a funeral procession for two murdered opponents of Chile's military government.

Eyewitnesses said at least 3,000 marchers set out from the Santiago offices of the Association of Professional Teachers with the body of the union's regional president, Manuel Guerrero. At the head of the column were pupils from his school with Communist and Chilean flags.

More than 1,000 people were waiting outside the capital's cathedral where the body of Jose Manuel Parada, a church human rights worker, was taken into the procession.

As the column snaked through the city centre towards a cemetery, the mourners chanted slogans against the 11-year-old military government of President Augusto Pinochet — "Yes, yes, once again, Pinochet is to blame" and "we want justice, we want justice."

The procession, including relatives and colleagues of the dead men, opposition politicians and trade union leaders, was swollen by crowds along the route, many carrying red carnations and bags of rose petals. Guerrero, Parada and a third man, Santiago Nartino, all members of the Communist Party, were abducted by armed men in civilian clothes last week and found with their throats cut on Saturday.

The supreme court Tuesday agreed to a request by the government and relatives of the dead and appointed a special judge to investigate the killings.

Manuel Bustos, acting president of the Workers' National Command (CNT) which groups opposition trade unions, called for a day of protest over the killings on April 11. The Teachers' Union has urged its members to go on strike from Wednesday.

Opposition parties, human rights groups and relatives of the dead have said it was inconceivable that the killings could have been carried out without the complicity of security services.

Honduran congress to debate indictment of members

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — The Honduran congress was expected to debate whether to proceed with an indictment accusing 50 of its 82 members of violating the constitution in a fierce political crisis which opposition leader predicted could lead to bloodshed.

The motion, prepared by a criminal court and backed by President Robert Suazo Cordova, accused the congressmen of "acting against the state," a reference to their vote last week to remove five supreme court judges.

The legislators, who in most cases are immune to criminal charges, would have to decide if they acted unconstitutionally in sacking the judges in order for the indictment to proceed. Legal experts consulted by Reuters said it was unlikely the deputies would vote to incriminate themselves.

"We would fight until they kill or imprison every last one of us," said Nicolas Cruz Torres, a leader of the opposition National Party and one of deputies named in the indictment. "There would be a lot of violence."

"We would not be able to control our supporters if they deny us the legal right to express our opinions," he said.

An offer by armed forces chief Brig. General Walter Reyes Lopez to mediate in talks between

atives and colleagues of the dead men, opposition politicians and trade union leaders, was swollen by crowds along the route, many carrying red carnations and bags of rose petals. Guerrero, Parada and a third man, Santiago Nartino, all members of the Communist Party, were abducted by armed men in civilian clothes last week and found with their throats cut on Saturday.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ A Q 7 3

♦ 6 4

♣ A J 8 7 4 2

EAST

♠ Q J 9 8 3

♦ 10 7 5 2

♣ J 9 8 4 2

♦ Void

♣ K 10 9 7

SOUTH

♠ A K 4

♦ K 10 6

♣ A Q J 9 8 3 2

♦ Void

♣ K 9 8 3

The bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♥ Pass 3 ♥ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

5 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

Rubber bridge and duplicate are

not just two different forms of the

same game. In some respects, they

are two different games.

This is a perfectly